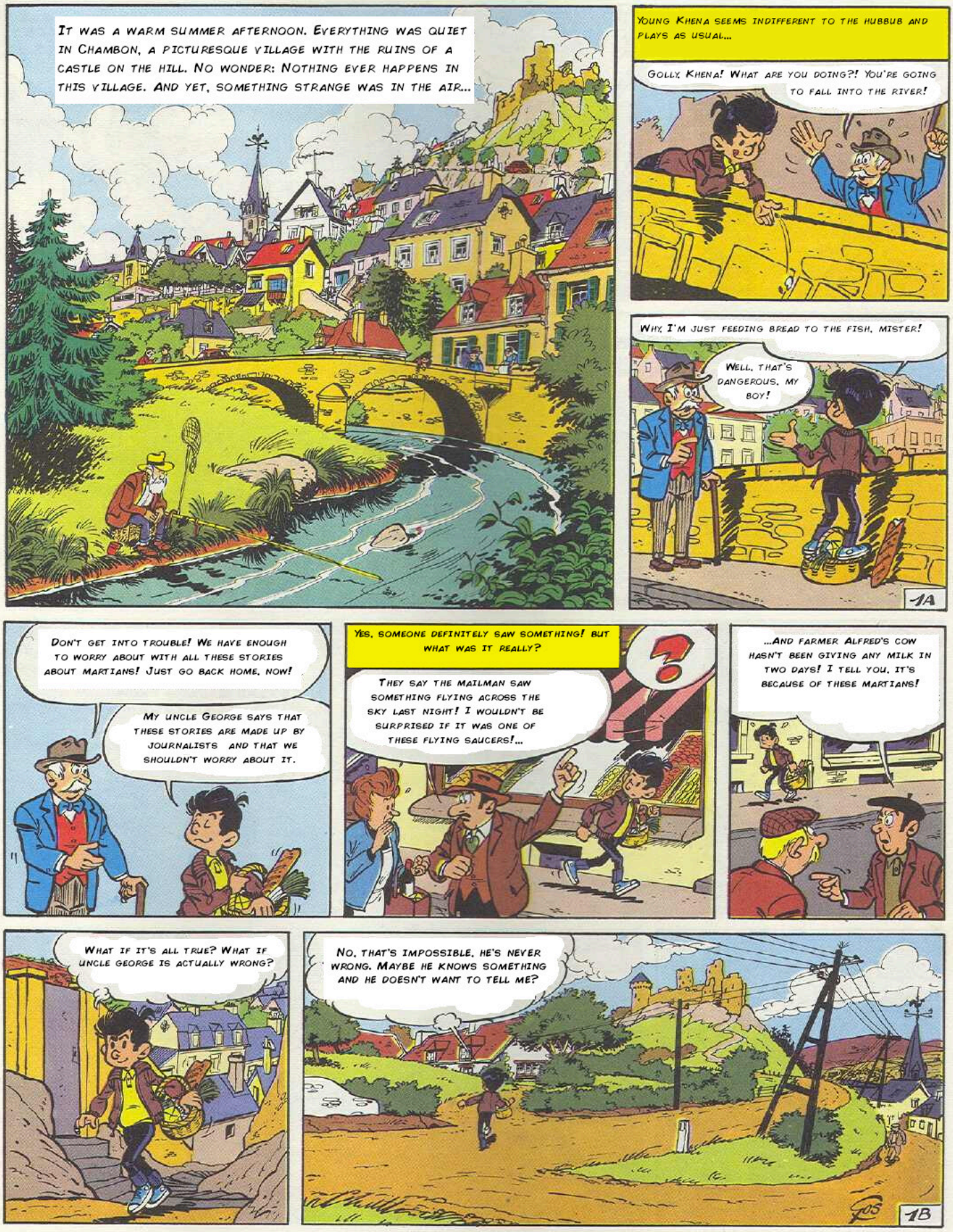
N°1

KHENA AND THE SCRAMESTASH

# THE HEIR OF THE INCA

BY Gos

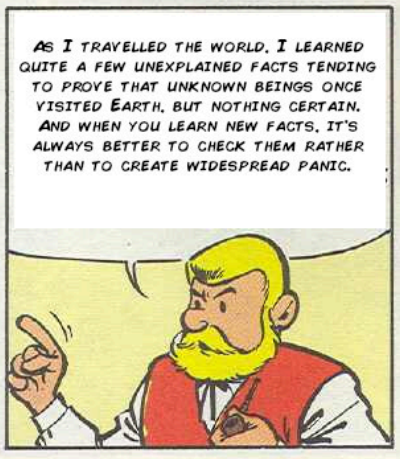
DUPUIS


It was a warm summer afternoon. Everything was quiet in Chambon, a picturesque village with the ruins of a castle on the hill. No wonder: Nothing ever happens in this village. And yet, something strange was in the air...
Young Khena seems indifferent to the hubbub and plays as usual...
Golly, Khena! What are you doing?! You're going to fall into the river!
Why, I'm just feeding bread to the fish, mister!
Well, that's dangerous, my boy!
1A
Don't get into trouble! We have enough to worry about with all these stories about martians! Just go back home, now!
My uncle George says that these stories are made up by journalists and that we shouldn't worry about it.
Yes, someone definitely saw something! But what was it really?
They say the mailman saw something flying across the sky last night! I wouldn't be surprised if it was one of these flying saucers!...
...And farmer Alfred's cow hasn't been giving any milk in two days! I tell you, it's because of these martians!
What if it's all true? What if uncle George is actually wrong?
No, that's impossible, he's never wrong. Maybe he knows something and he doesn't want to tell me?
1B

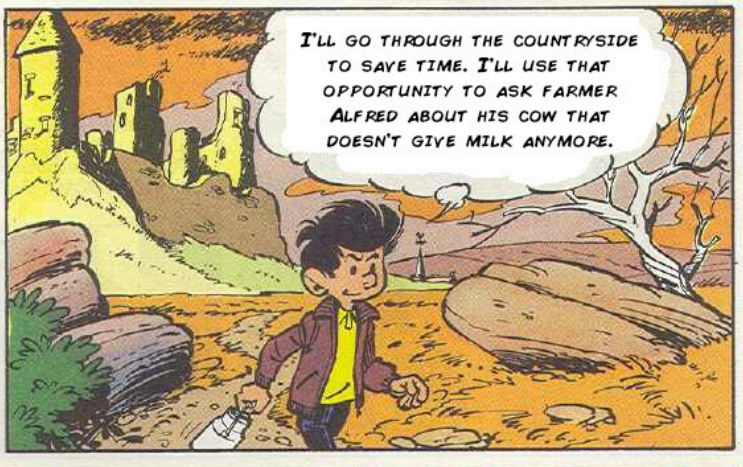
KHENA'S UNCLE IS GEORGE CAYO, A WELL-KNOWN ARCHAELOGIST AND ETHNOLOGIST. HE USED TO TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD, BUT IS NOW STAYING HOME TO WRITE HIS MEMOIRS AND RAISE KHENA, AN ORPHAN THAT HE BROUGHT BACK FROM ONE OF HIS EXPEDITIONS.

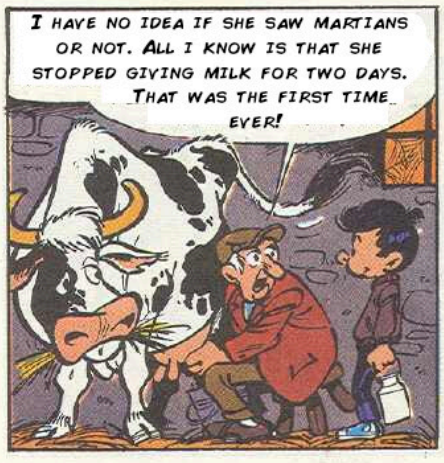
THE WHOLE VILLAGE IS ABUZZ WITH TALES ABOUT MARTIANS AND FLYING SAUCERS!
ASTONISHING! FOR ONCE, THE MAILMAN SEES SOMETHING WEIRD THAT IS NOT PINK ELEPHANTS, AND EVERYONE RUSHES TO BELIEVE HIM!

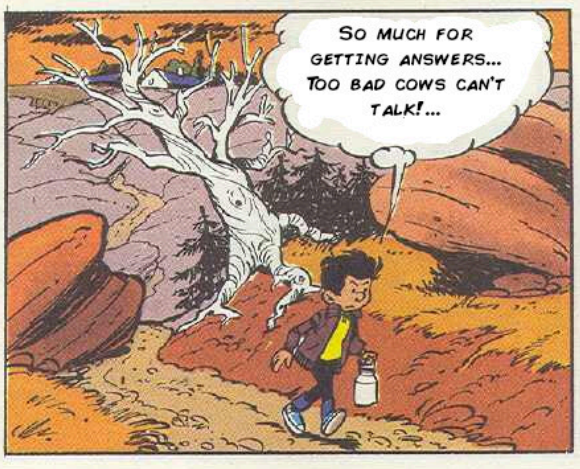
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU BELIEVE IN MARTIANS?
I AM NOT AGAINST THE EXISTENCE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS. I HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING THEY COULD COME FROM MARS, NOT TO MENTION ALL THE WAY HERE TO CHAMBON!


AS I TRAVELLED THE WORLD, I LEARNED QUITE A FEW UNEXPLAINED FACTS TENDING TO PROVE THAT UNKNOWN BEINGS ONCE VISITED EARTH, BUT NOTHING CERTAIN. AND WHEN YOU LEARN NEW FACTS, IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO CHECK THEM RATHER THAN TO CREATE WIDESPREAD PANIC.

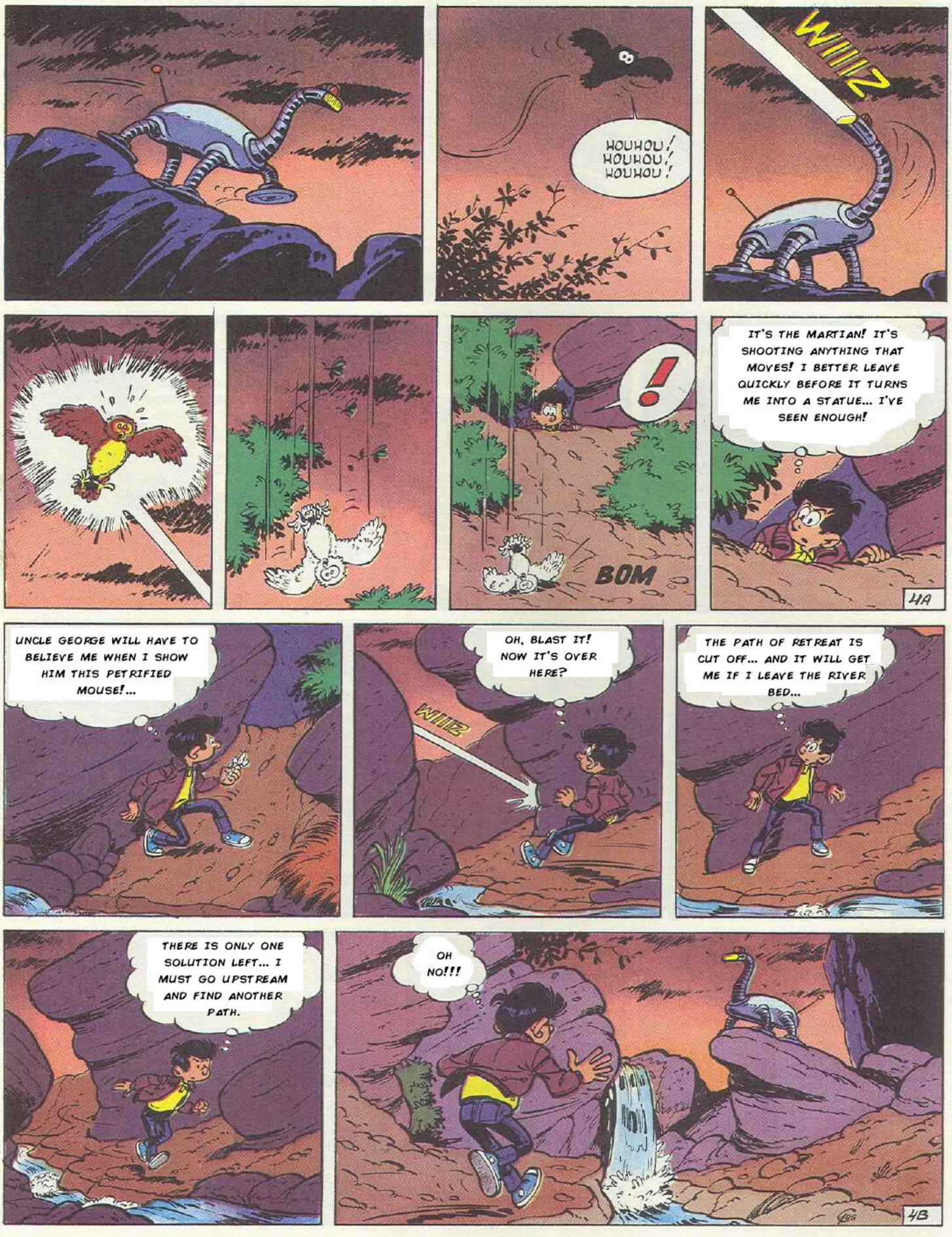
AND NOW FOR MORE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS. IF YOU WANT ME TO MAKE PANCAKES, YOU BETTER GO TO THE FARM AND GET SOME MILK!
ALL RIGHT! RIGHT AWAY, UNCLE GEORGE!
2A


I'LL GO THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE TO SAVE TIME. I'LL USE THAT OPPORTUNITY TO ASK FARMER ALFRED ABOUT HIS COW THAT DOESN'T GIVE MILK ANYMORE.



WHAT A WEIRD SOUND! FROM UP THERE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT IT IS.
WIW WIW WIW
IT'S COMING FROM THE OLD QUARRY. OH! THERE ARE LIGHTS, TOO! NOW THAT'S WEIRD... THERE ARE NO HOUSES OVER THERE!
IF I FOLLOW THE RIVER, I COULD GET CLOSE WITHOUT BEING SEEN! LET'S GO!
WIW WIW WIW
THAT NOISE AGAIN. I MUST BE GETTING VERY CLOSE NOW.
OH, FOOTPRINTS... WAIT, THESE WERE NOT MADE BY HUMAN FEET!??...
THE TRACKS ARE GOING TOWARDS THE QUARRY. I'M GOING TO CRAWL UP TO THAT ROCK AND TAKE A LOOK.
3A
!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... A FLYING SAUCER!
WIIIZ
?
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT... IT'S A MOUSE... BUT... IT'S BEEN TURNED INTO STONE??!
BING
WHO COULD DO... OH!?
3B


HOUHOU!
HOUHOU!
HOUHOU!
WHIIZ
!
BOM
IT'S THE MARTIAN! IT'S SHOOTING ANYTHING THAT MOVES! I BETTER LEAVE QUICKLY BEFORE IT TURNS ME INTO A STATUE... I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!
4A
UNCLE GEORGE WILL HAVE TO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SHOW HIM THIS PETRIFIED MOUSE!...
OH, BLAST IT! NOW IT'S OVER HERE?
WHIIZ
THE PATH OF RETREAT IS CUT OFF... AND IT WILL GET ME IF I LEAVE THE RIVER BED...
THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION LEFT... I MUST GO UPSTREAM AND FIND ANOTHER PATH.
OH NO!!!
4B

WIIIZ
HEY WAIT... I AM FINE, I AM NOT PETRIFIED! EITHER IT MISSED ME, OR THIS RAY DOESN'T WORK ON ME.
?
WIIIZ
?
HA HA!... HILARIOUS! IT DOESN'T WORK ON HUMANS... YES, THAT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION! FANTASTIC, IT MEANS I AM NOT IN ANY DANGER AND I CAN GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE SAUCER... THIS THING WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STOP ME.
5A
OH, REALLY?...
?
HEY WHAT IS IT DOING?
WAK
!?
5B

HEY! LET ME GO!
HELP!!
HEY, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? YAAAWN... I'M SO SLEEPY ALL OF A SUDDEN!... I... I...
AH, HERE IS THE TERRAN WHO IS INSENSITIVE TO THE BABA RAY! SAY, THIS ONE HAS NO HORNS AND IS SMALLER THAN THE ONE I MET YESTERDAY ...
ALL RIGHT, I NEED TO KNOW WHY HE IS PROTECTED. THERE IS BUT ONE SOLUTION FOR THIS: A BRAINSCAN. IT'S NOT VERY ETHICAL, BUT MY SAFETY IS AT RISK.
6A
AT LEAST, HE DOESN'T LOOK MEAN.
YEAH, ACTUALLY, HE SEEMS TO BE RATHER A NICE GUY!...
WELL, NOW, I CAN'T GET ALL SENTIMENTAL AGAIN. I NEED TO GET THAT BRAINSCAN GOING.
EXECUTE BRAINSCAN!
CLONC
6B

YOU WANTED TO KNOW TOO MUCH, NOW YOU'LL REMEMBER NOTHING.
Z
BUT I WILL KNOW EVERYTHING, WHETHER YOU WANT IT OR NOT.
NOW FOR A HALF TURN...
YEAH, THAT WILL DO. HIS HEAD ISN'T TOO BIG.
THERE!...
AND NOW FOR A CONFESSION WITHOUT DURESS, EH EH... SIGH... I AM NOT PROUD OF IT.
HELLO, I AM THE SCRAMESTASH. WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU COMING FROM? AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?...
ELLE
7A
MEANWHILE...
GOOD HEAVENS, KHENA HAS BEEN GONE FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR! WHAT CAN HE POSSIBLY BE DOING?
WALKING TO THE FARM AND BACK IS AT MOST A TWENTY-MINUTE ROUNDTRIP... I HAVE TO GO FIND HIM.
I KNOW HIM. HE IS PROBABLY LOITERING SOMEWHERE ON THE WAY...
THAT'S ALMOST CORRECT...
MY NAME IS KHENA... I WAS BORN IN PERU... AND...
CRRR... FZZZT... EEEOOOW... BZZZ... CLACK...
?
AND CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT. AND BRAINSCANS ARE AN ATTACK AGAINST INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. AND ONE SHOULD NOT TAKE BY FORCE WHAT HAS BEEN DENIED. AND THIS MACHINE IS BARELY GOOD ENOUGH TO DRY YOUR HAIR, EXCEPT THAT IT'S TOO NOISY!
WHAT?!
MY WORD, HE IS MOCKING ME!!
GOOD GRIEF, WHAT NOW? THE LONG DISTANCE ALARM SYSTEM TRIGGERED!
BZZZ
78

ANOTHER TERRAN! LET'S LISTEN TO WHAT HE IS SAYING, IT MIGHT BE IMPORTANT.
KHÉNA!
KHENA? WAIT, THAT'S THE BOY I HAVE SITTING HERE. WHOAH, THE PLOT THICKENS! TIME TO ACT, AND FAST!
I'M SENDING HIM BACK TO WHERE HE CAME FROM! TOO BAD, I'D LIKE TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS MYSTERIOUS CASE.
FOLLOWING THE MAGNETISM OF KHENA'S FOOT PRINTS, THE STRANGE LIGHT ORB BRINGS THE BOY BACK TO HIS STARTING POINT, ON THE PATH FROM THE FARM...
THEN DROPS HIM DELICATELY...
AND DISAPPEARS.
84
KHÉNA!?
MY GOODNESS, HE IS SLEEPING!...
KHENA! KHENA!... WAKE UP!...
AH! IT'S YOU, UNCLE GEORGE!...
... UH, WHAT AM I DOING HERE? WHERE... WHERE IS THE FLYING SAUCER?
AH! YES! THE FLYING SAUCER! THE MARTIANS! THEY ARE REAL! I SAW THEM!!
OH, STOP!
DON'T YOU START AGAIN!
BUT, UNCLE GEORGE, I SWEAR THAT IT'S TRUE! I SAW THEM! THEY ARE OVER THERE, IN THE OLD QUARRY! COME WITH ME IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.
UH OH, THEY ARE BOTH COMING BACK THIS WAY!... WELL, IF THE TALL ONE COMES TOO CLOSE, MY WATCHDOG WILL TURN HIM INTO A SALT STATUE.
85

IT'S HERE, BEHIND THESE ROCKS! COME, THERE IS NO DANGER.
FOLLOW ME!
WIIZ
UNCLE GEORGE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
BUT... HE IS PETRIFIED! HE WAS TURNED INTO A STATUE! I THOUGHT IT DIDN'T WORK ON HUMANS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
TIC TOC
WHAT SHOULD I DO? QUICK, TO THE SAUCER! I'LL TRY TALKING TO THEM.
9A
HEY!.. IT'S TAKING OFF!
IT'S FLYING AWAY AT TOP SPEED! THIS IS A DISASTER!!!...
SUDDENLY, UNCLE GEORGE RECOVERS HIS NORMAL APPEARANCE, COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF WHAT HAPPENED, AS IF TIME STOPPED FOR HIM SINCE THE MOMENT HE WAS PETRIFIED.
PLOC
IT'S OVER!... UNCLE GEORGE IS BACK THERE, LIKE A SILENT REPROACH! WORSE, SILENT AS A TOMB!
WELL, KHENA, WHERE IS THIS FLYING SAUCER OF YOURS?
?
GOS
9B

AH! IT'S YOU! WONDERFUL! HOW DID YOU DO THAT? YOU AREN'T A STATUE ANYMORE!?...
FIRST, I AM GETTING VERY TIRED OF YOUR CRAZY RANTS. SECOND, I DON'T SEE WHY I SHOULD BE A STATUE. AND THIRD, WHERE IS THAT SAUCER?
WELL... IT WAS THERE, BUT NOW IT'S GONE.
GOOD GRIEF, KHENA, HOW DO YOU DARE? ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL MY LEG PER CHANCE?
NO, I'M NOT!
WAIT! I HAVE GOT THE PROOF THAT I AM NOT LYING. THE MARTIAN HAD PETRIFIED A MOUSE. I KEPT IT. I'T HERE IN MY POCKET.
PLOC
?!?
IIIIK!!?
ENOUGH WASTED TIME! COME,WE ARE GOING HOME! AND LET ME TELL YOU I DON'T APPRECIATE THE WAY YOU JUSTIFY YOUR ESCAPADES.
10A
LATER...
THAT'S IT, UNCLE GEORGE, I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING IN DETAIL. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK THAT YOU FELL ASLEEP ON THE WAY AND DREAMT, THAT'S ALL!
GOSH, I AM SO THIRSTY, I FEEL LIKE I ATE A POUND OF SALT!
AS FOR ME, I AM CONVINCED THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT EVIL, BUT THEY CERTAINLY HAVE MEANS TO KEEP US AWAY.
HUM, WELL, OKAY... IT'S LATE. GO TO BED, SONNY!
HOWEVER, I CANNOT FATHOM WHY THE RAY DIDN'T WORK ON ME.
I AM SURE I DIDN'T DREAM. TOMORROW, I'LL GO BACK TO THE OLD QUARRY. MAYBE I'LL FIND SOME CLUES.
ALL OF THAT IS VERY STRANGE! DID HE REALLY SEE SOMETHING? IT'S NOT IN HIS HABITS TO LIE.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO BACK TO FINISH MY REPAIRS! ALSO, I MUST ADMIT THAT I FIND THIS KHENA INTERESTING. I WANT TO KNOW WHY HE IS PROTECTED.
10B

THE NEXT DAY, KHENA, ALONG WITH HIS DOG WATERLOO, WENT BACK TO THE QUARRY, HOPING TO FIND PROOF OF THE SAUCER'S EXISTENCE.
NOTHING! ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
A BIT LATER...
WIW WIW
OH! LISTEN, WATERLOO! THE SAME NOISE AS YESTERDAY IN THE QUARRY!
EITHER THE SAUCER IS BACK, OR THERE IS ANOTHER ONE HIDING SOMEWHERE IN HERE.
MAYBE IT'S BROKEN DOWN. WHAT'S BETTER THAN A RUINED CASTLE OR AN OLD QUARRY TO REPAIR DISCREETLY, RIGHT? THE PROBLEM IS THAT SEARCHING ALL THESE RUINS WOULD TAKE HOURS! SO, YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME, WATERLOO!
?
SEARCH AROUND, WATERLOO... FIND A SCENT... HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
COME BACK, SILLY DOG! THERE IS NOTHING HERE! HOW WOULD A FLYING SAUCER FIT THROUGH THIS MINISCULE DOOR?
WAF!
11A
WATERLOO! WHERE ARE YOU?
WAF! WAF!
BROM
OH, GREAT! YOU RUSHED INTO A HOLE AND YOU... HEY, WAIT, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU FOUND AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL! STAY HERE, I'M GOING TO ENLARGE THE OPENING.
HERE, THAT SHOULD DO IT! IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO BRING MY FLASHLIGHT.
WATERLOO! HELLO! WHERE ARE YOU? WAIT FOR ME, I'M COMING!
GOLLY, HE DISAPPEARED. THERE IS NOTHING HERE, JUST AN EMPTY BASEMENT.
HEY!
CLAP
11B

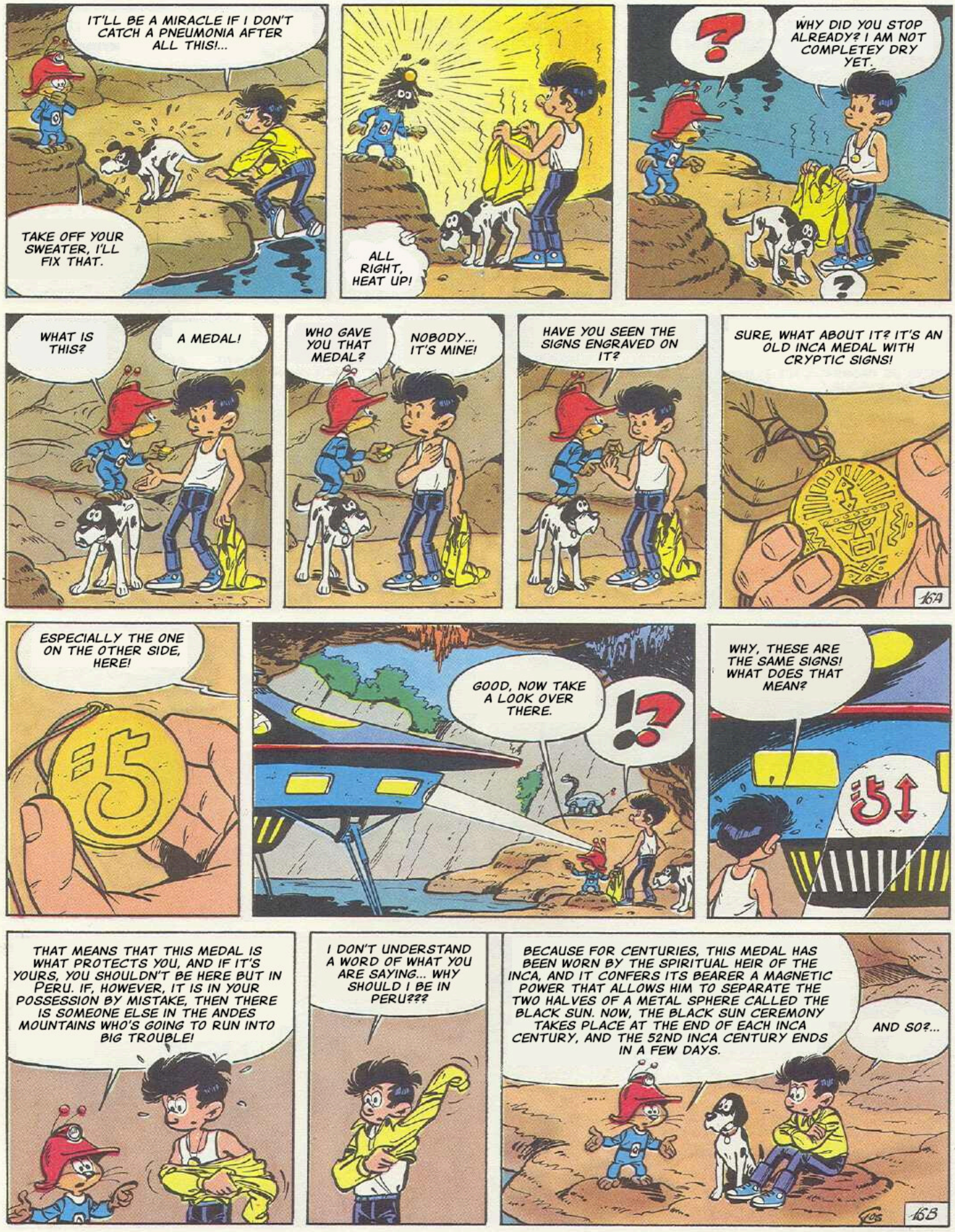
OH MY GOD, YOU PUT US INTO A FINE MESS! WE ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF A PRISON CELL!
WOUF WAF!
OH? DID YOU FIND A PASSAGE?
STAIRS! SO THEN, THIS IS NOT A PRISON! WE ARE SAVED!
THIS LOOKS RATHER LIKE A SECRET PASSAGEWAY OR AN ESCAPE TUNNEL... THAT'S WEIRD, I NEVER HEARD OF IT.
OH WOW! A CAVE! AND THIS LIGHT OVER THERE, THAT MUST BE THE EXIT! LISTEN!... THAT NOISE AGAIN. WE'RE GOING TO KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE, WATERLOO...
WE'RE GOING TO ESCAPE THIS MEDIEVAL TRAP AND FIND A PROOF THAT I DIDN'T DREAM YESTERDAY!
12A

!?
THE SAUCER!
WWWWW
HERE, MY REPAIRS ARE DONE.
THIS TIME, I FOUND THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE. NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO FIND ME HERE... SO I CAN ENJOY A NICE RELAXING SWIM IN PEACE BEFORE EXPLORING THE SURROUNDINGS.
12B

SOMEBODY IS SWIMMING DOWN THERE...
PLITCH PLOTCH PLITCH
!
?
WAF! WAF!
HEY! SHHHH!... BE QUIET, YOU FOOL!
?
MISSED!!
WIIIZ
?
13A
I AM SPOTTED! LET'S BE CAREFUL!
PAF
BLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB
WIF! WAF! W...
WIIIZ
THE POOR GUY! HE'S GOING TO DROWN!
WOUF! WAF!
BLUB BLUB BLUB
13B

AH! A DARK SHAPE! THAT'S HIM!
WHEW! AIR! I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
WHAT A STRANGE LITTLE CHARACTER! HE IS NOT BREATHING ANYMORE... I'LL GIVE HIM MOUTH-TO-MOUTH...
ER...
ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION INSTEAD!
?
14A
OH! KHENA! IT'S YOU!
YOU KNOW ME?
HA HA! OF COURSE! REMEMBER? YESTERDAY NIGHT, THE SAUCER... THE LIGHT ORB... THE BRAINSC... ER... WELL, HUM... INDEED, THAT WAS ME!...
BUT... WHO ARE YOU?... ARE YOU A MARTIAN?? ARE YOU ALONE? COME ON, EXPLAIN!
I AM NOT A MARTIAN. I AM THE SCRAMESTASH.
THE WHAT?
THE SCRAMESTASH!
SAY, WHERE IS THE OTHER ONE, THE TALL GUY WITH YELLOW HAIR?
AH, MY UNCLE GEORGE! HE'S HOME. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. I AM ALONE AND...
PLOC
WAHOUHOUU
WHAOU
WHIZ
LIAR!
HEY!
14B

OH, GREAT JOB, DUDE! THAT'S MY DOG WATERLOO!
I GIVE YOU 30 SECONDS TO GIVE HIM BACK HIS FORMER APPEARANCE!
AS FOR ME, I'LL GIVE YOU A BIT OF ADVICE. CALM DOWN, OR ELSE MY ROBOT WILL...
WIIIIZ
SEE?...
THIS CONSTANT AGGRESSIVENESS IS GETTING OLD!!!
ACTUALLY, IT'S JUST SELF-DEFENSE!
DON'T WORRY, I'M GOING TO BRING BACK YOUR DOG... AND DON'T BE SURPRISED BY WHAT YOU SEE, THERE IS NO DANGER!
TOBOR, GO FETCH THE DOG, AND BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO DROP IT OR I'LL KICK YOUR BUTT, YOU
!
!
YOU HAVE TO BE HARSH WITH ROBOTS AND FRIGHTEN THEM FROM TIME TO TIME OR THEY'LL GET COMPLACENT IN THEIR ROUTINE.
15A
DEFYING ALL LAWS OF GRAVITY AND PROPELLING ITSELF WITH A LIGHT JET...
TOBOR COMES HOVERING OVER WATERLOO...
DZZZZ
DZZZZ
GRABS HIM...
CLAP
CLAP
AND CARRIES HIM OFF.
LOOK, HE IS COMING ROUND! ARE YOU SATISFIED?
YES!
PLOC
!?
NO!
PLOUF
I FEEL LIKE A TOTAL DIP IN THIS ADVENTURE!...
15B

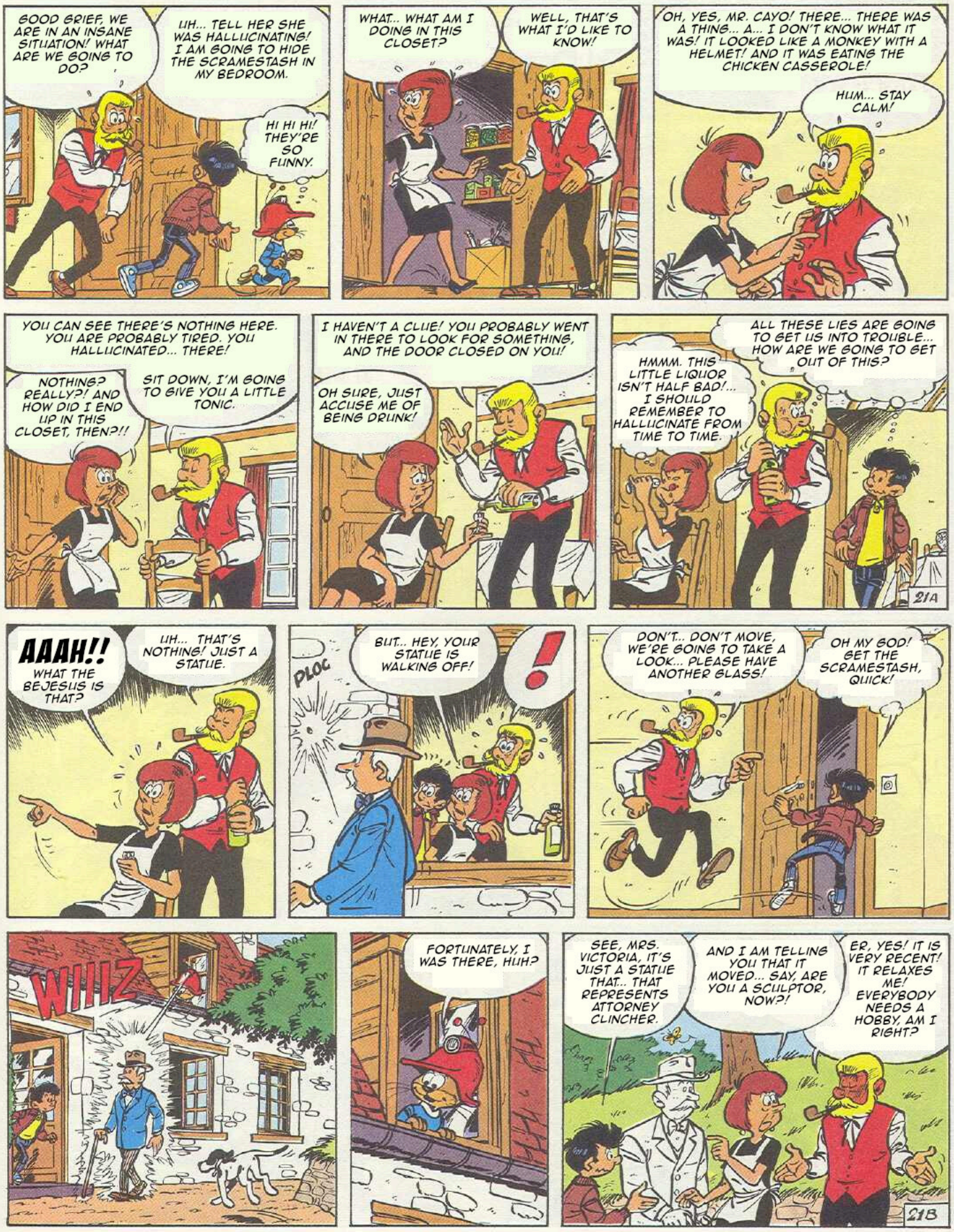

IT'LL BE A MIRACLE IF I DON'T CATCH A PNEUMONIA AFTER ALL THIS!...
TAKE OFF YOUR SWEATER, I'LL FIX THAT.
ALL RIGHT, HEAT UP!
?
WHY DID YOU STOP ALREADY? I AM NOT COMPLETEY DRY YET.
?
WHAT IS THIS?
A MEDAL!
WHO GAVE YOU THAT MEDAL?
NOBODY... IT'S MINE!
HAVE YOU SEEN THE SIGNS ENGRAVED ON IT?
SURE, WHAT ABOUT IT? IT'S AN OLD INCA MEDAL WITH CRYPTIC SIGNS!
167
ESPECIALLY THE ONE ON THE OTHER SIDE, HERE!
GOOD, NOW TAKE A LOOK OVER THERE.
!?
WHY, THESE ARE THE SAME SIGNS! WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THAT MEANS THAT THIS MEDAL IS WHAT PROTECTS YOU, AND IF IT'S YOURS, YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE BUT IN PERU. IF, HOWEVER, IT IS IN YOUR POSSESSION BY MISTAKE, THEN THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE IN THE ANDES MOUNTAINS WHO'S GOING TO RUN INTO BIG TROUBLE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF WHAT YOU ARE SAYING... WHY SHOULD I BE IN PERU???
BECAUSE FOR CENTURIES, THIS MEDAL HAS BEEN WORN BY THE SPIRITUAL HEIR OF THE INCA, AND IT CONFERS ITS BEARER A MAGNETIC POWER THAT ALLOWS HIM TO SEPARATE THE TWO HALVES OF A METAL SPHERE CALLED THE BLACK SUN. NOW, THE BLACK SUN CEREMONY TAKES PLACE AT THE END OF EACH INCA CENTURY, AND THE 52ND INCA CENTURY ENDS IN A FEW DAYS.
AND SO?...
168

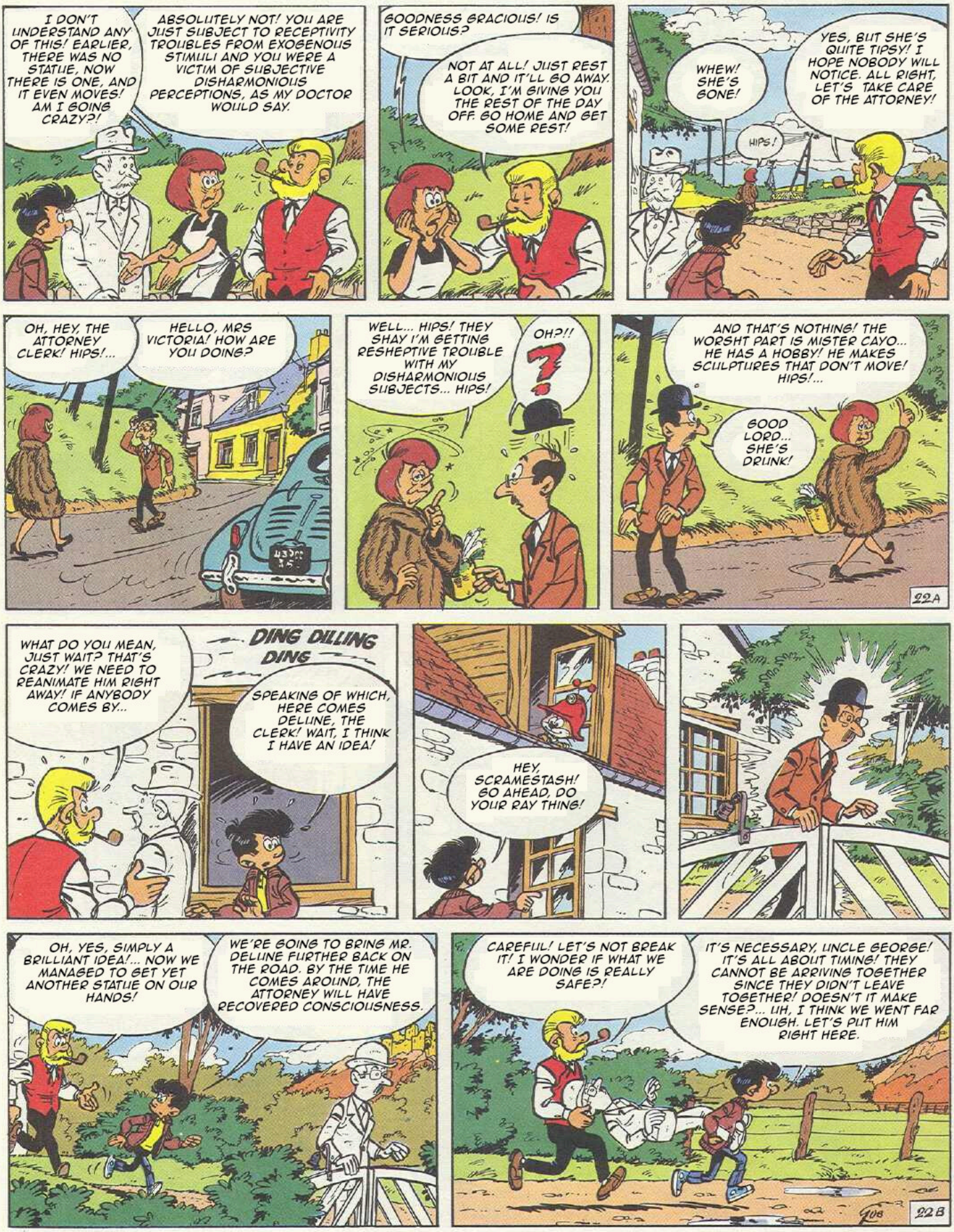
AND SO THE SPHERE WILL NOT OPEN. THE POOR GUY WILL THEN BE BRANDED AN USURPER AND WILL BE PUNISHED BY HIS SUBJECTS, SINCE THEY DON'T KNOW IT'S A QUESTION OF MAGNETISM!... BY THE WAY, WHO CAN TELL ME ABOUT YOUR ORIGINS?
MY UNCLE GEORGE. HE IS MY ONLY RELATIVE.
EXCELLENT, WE ARE GOING TO ASK HIM. I NEED TO MAKE A FEW PREPARATIONS. TO START WITH, LET'S PROGRAM TOBOR TO OBEY YOU!
?
THERE! YOU JUST HAVE TO TEST IT WHILE I HANDLE THE REST.
WHY DON'T I COMMAND IT TO BRING ME MY JACKET?
AND SOON...
OH, NICE, IT WORKS!
LOOK, WATERLOO, THERE WAS A SMALL CRAFT IN THE SAUCER!
WHAT'S THAT THINGAMAJIG, SCRAMESTASH?
IT'S A FLYCART! COME ABOARD, IT'S LARGE ENOUGH FOR YOU.
17A
HEY!?? THE SAUCER... IT'S TAKING OFF! WHAT'S GOING ON??
IT'S NOT TAKING OFF! I'M GOING TO HIDE IT. LOOK, I'M SHUTTING OFF THE ANTI-GRAVITY, AND IT'S GOING TO SINK INTO THE WATER.
17B
YOU'RE CRAZY. IT'S AT LEAST A HUNDRED FOOT DEEP THERE!
105 FEET TO BE PRECISE! NOBODY WILL EVER FIND IT DOWN THERE. IT'S THE IDEAL HIDEOUT! LET'S GO!...
BUT DON'T WORRY, I WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE IT.

SCRAMESTASH, YOU OUGHT TO FOLLOW THE ROAD. WE ARE GOING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION IF WE SCAMPER AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE LIKE THIS!
NOW, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PASS FOR A SPORTS CAR!...
OH, JUST IN TIME! HERE COMES SOMEONE.
HEY, MARTHA, TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S COMING AHEAD!
???! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I BELIEVE YOU THAT YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WE WAITED THIRTY YEARS TO BUY A CAR AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU MANAGED TO GET A MODEL THAT'S COMPLETELY OBSOLETE!
18A
MEANWHILE, IN THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY CLINCHER, IN CHAMBON...
GOOD LORD! NOW THAT'S UNEXPECTED! THE CONSULATE IN PERU WROTE TO LET ME KNOW THAT A MAN CAME TO SEE HIM AND TOLD HIM HE HAS INFORMATION ABOUT LITTLE KHENA'S ORIGINS.
?
MISTER DELUNE! CALL MISTER CAYO. TELL HIM THAT I AM GOING TO HIS HOUSE TO GIVE HIM THESE PRECIOUS DOCUMENTS.
YES, SIR!
HELLO, MISTER CAYO? OFFICE OF ATTORNEY CLINCHER, DELUNE SPEAKING... MISTER CLINCHER IS ON HIS WAY TO BRING YOU IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS CONCERNING KHENA! GOODBYE, MISTER CAYO!
OH! MISTER CLINCHER LOST ONE OF THE PAPERS MEANT FOR MISTER CAYO.
MISS QWERTY, COULD YOU HANDLE THE OFFICE FOR A WHILE? I HAVE TO GO TO MISTER CAYO'S HOUSE TO BRING THE BOSS A PAPER.
IT'D BE BEST IF YOU HID IN MY BEDROOM UNTIL MRS. VICTORIA LEAVES. SHE'S THE MAID.
18B

SO THAT'S THE PLAN: I DISTRACT MRS. VICTORIA. WHEN I GIVE YOU THE SIGNAL, YOU RUN TO MY BEDROOM.
...AND THE STAIRS ARE AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR. GOT IT!
I CAN HEAR HER SINGING IN THE KITCHEN.
TRA...LÀ..LÀ...
LALI...LALA!...
HUM... ER... GOOD EVENING, MRS. VICTORIA.
OH, HELLO, KHENA! DINNER IS READY, BUT YOU NEED TO WAIT. YOUR UNCLE IS EXPECTING THE ATTORNEY MOMENTARILY.
ALL RIGHT! SAY, MRS. VICTORIA, WERE YOU AFRAID OF GETTING COLD THIS MORNING? YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHINCHILLA COAT!
KHENA, I ALREADY TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT SHIN ZILLA, IT'S MUSK RAT!
19A
ATTORNEY CLINCHER IS SUCH AN OLD CHEAPSKATE. HE ALWAYS VISITS AT DINNER TIME.
HUM... I AM GOING UPSTAIRS TO WASH MY HANDS!
!!!

KHENA? WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE WITH THIS STATUE? WAIT... IT LOOKS LIKE MRS. VICTORIA?!
UH... WELL... LET ME EXPLAIN, UNCLE GEORGE!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN? HOW THIS STATUE ENDED UP HERE, FOR INSTANCE?
WHERE IS MRS. VICTORIA? WELL?...
SHE'S HERE! THAT'S HER! IT'S THE SCRAMESTASH... UH... WELL, THE MARTIAN... HE...
OH NO, DON'T YOU START AGAIN WITH YOUR TWADDLE! I...
DING DILLING
HEAVENS! A VISITOR! IT'S GOT TO BE THE ATTORNEY.
I WAS RIGHT, HERE HE COMES!
DILLING
WE ARE GOING TO STORE THIS STATUE IN THE CLOSET, BUT I AM WARNING YOU, I'LL EXPECT A LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS.
IF SHE COMES AROUND IN THERE, IT'S GOING TO BE A HUGE MESS!
THERE! NOW LET'S GO WELCOME THE ATTORNEY... WHAT'S THIS?...
?
20A
KHENA, I TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES TO PUT AWAY YOUR TOYS! TAKE THIS HELMET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW!
?
!
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?!!!
UH... THE SCULPTOR...
WIIIZ
SEE, THAT'S THE MARTIAN. HE'S NOT A BAD GUY. HE JUST TURNS PEOPLE INTO SALT STATUES!
?
HELP! LET ME OUT!
BOUM
BOUM
20B

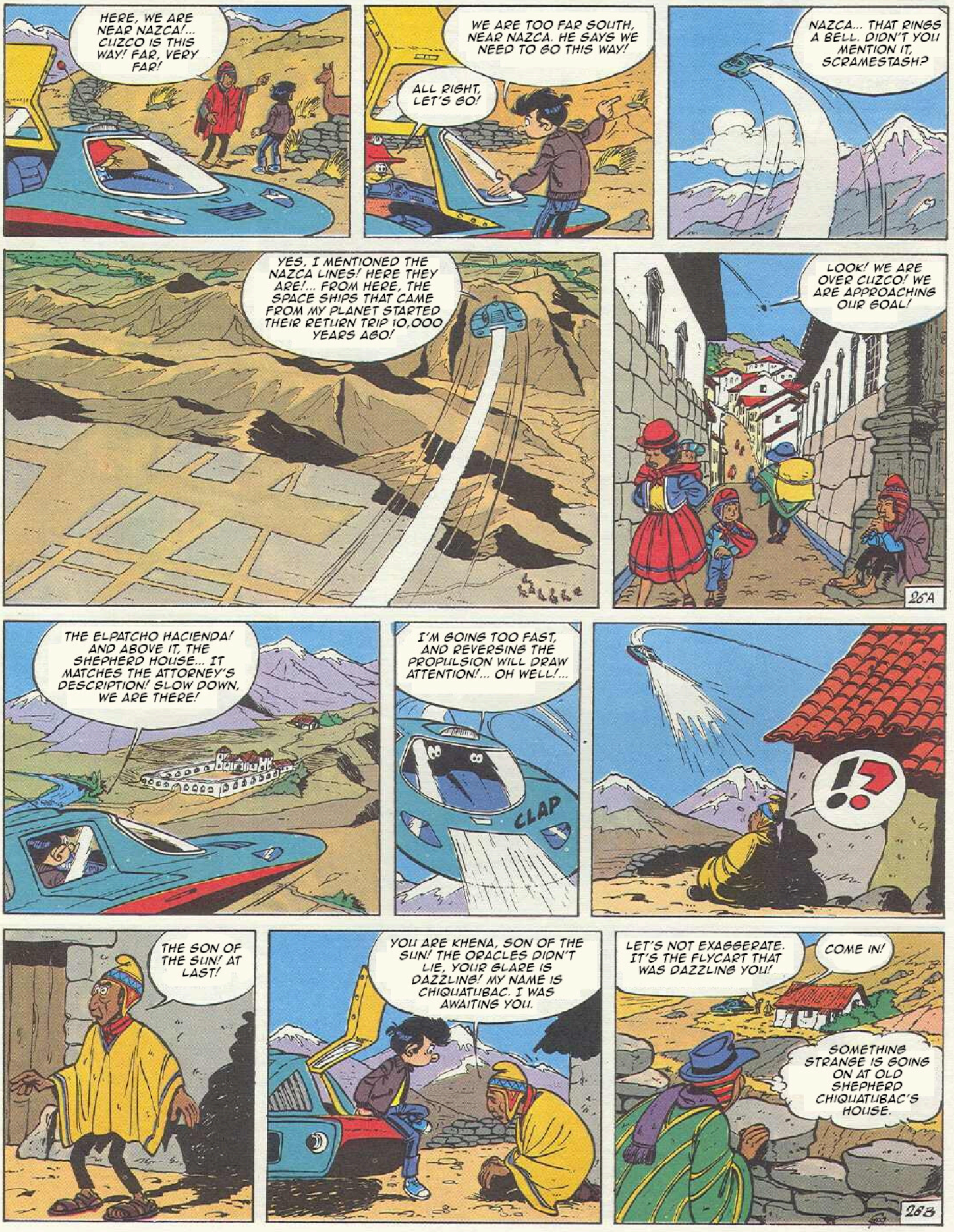

GOOD GRIEF, WE ARE IN AN INSANE SITUATION! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
UH... TELL HER SHE WAS HALLUCINATING! I AM GOING TO HIDE THE SCRAMESTASH IN MY BEDROOM.
HI HI HI! THEY'RE SO FUNNY.
WHAT... WHAT AM I DOING IN THIS CLOSET?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW!
OH, YES, MR. CAYO! THERE... THERE WAS A THING... A... I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS! IT LOOKED LIKE A MONKEY WITH A HELMET! AND IT WAS EATING THE CHICKEN CASSEROLE!
HUM... STAY CALM!
YOU CAN SEE THERE'S NOTHING HERE. YOU ARE PROBABLY TIRED. YOU HALLUCINATED... THERE!
NOTHING? REALLY?! AND HOW DID I END UP IN THIS CLOSET, THEN?!!
SIT DOWN, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE TONIC.
I HAVEN'T A CLUE! YOU PROBABLY WENT IN THERE TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING, AND THE DOOR CLOSED ON YOU!
OH SURE, JUST ACCUSE ME OF BEING DRUNK!
ALL THESE LIES ARE GOING TO GET US INTO TROUBLE... HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS?
HMMM. THIS LITTLE LIQUOR ISN'T HALF BAD!... I SHOULD REMEMBER TO HALLUCINATE FROM TIME TO TIME.
21A
AAAH!!
WHAT THE BEJESUS IS THAT?
UH... THAT'S NOTHING! JUST A STATUE.
PLOC
BUT... HEY, YOUR STATUE IS WALKING OFF!
!
DON'T... DON'T MOVE, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A LOOK... PLEASE HAVE ANOTHER GLASS!
OH MY GOD! GET THE SCRAMESTASH, QUICK!
WIIZ
FORTUNATELY, I WAS THERE, HUH?
SEE, MRS. VICTORIA, IT'S JUST A STATUE THAT... THAT REPRESENTS ATTORNEY CLINCHER.
AND I AM TELLING YOU THAT IT MOVED... SAY, ARE YOU A SCULPTOR, NOW?!
ER, YES! IT IS VERY RECENT! IT RELAXES ME! EVERYBODY NEEDS A HOBBY, AM I RIGHT?
21B

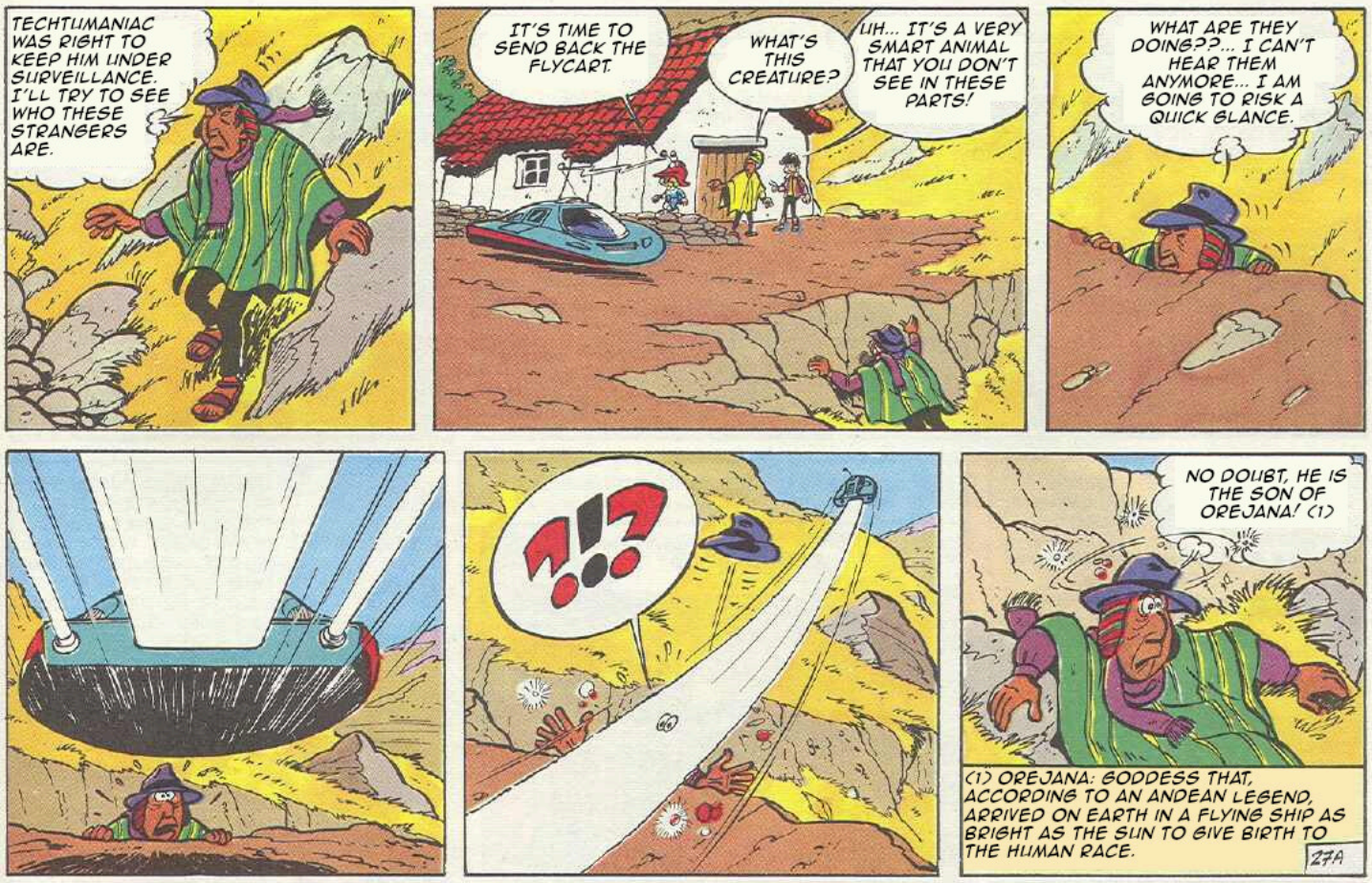

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS! EARLIER, THERE WAS NO STATUE, NOW THERE IS ONE, AND IT EVEN MOVES! AM I GOING CRAZY?!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! YOU ARE JUST SUBJECT TO RECEPTIVITY TROUBLES FROM EXOGENOUS STIMULI AND YOU WERE A VICTIM OF SUBJECTIVE DISHARMONIOUS PERCEPTIONS, AS MY DOCTOR WOULD SAY.
GOODNESS GRACIOUS! IS IT SERIOUS?
NOT AT ALL! JUST REST A BIT AND IT'LL GO AWAY. LOOK, I'M GIVING YOU THE REST OF THE DAY OFF. GO HOME AND GET SOME REST!
WHEW! SHE'S GONE!
HIPS!
YES, BUT SHE'S QUITE TIPSY! I HOPE NOBODY WILL NOTICE. ALL RIGHT, LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE ATTORNEY!
OH, HEY, THE ATTORNEY CLERK! HIPS!...
HELLO, MRS VICTORIA! HOW ARE YOU DOING?
WELL... HIPS! THEY SHAY I'M GETTING RESHEPTIVE TROUBLE WITH MY DISHARMONIOUS SUBJECTS... HIPS!
OH?!!
AND THAT'S NOTHING! THE WORSHT PART IS MISTER CAYO... HE HAS A HOBBY! HE MAKES SCULPTURES THAT DON'T MOVE! HIPS!...
GOOD LORD... SHE'S DRUNK!
22A
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JUST WAIT? THAT'S CRAZY! WE NEED TO REANIMATE HIM RIGHT AWAY! IF ANYBODY COMES BY...
DING DILLING DING
SPEAKING OF WHICH, HERE COMES DELUNE, THE CLERK! WAIT, I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA!
HEY, SCRAMESTASH! GO AHEAD, DO YOUR RAY THING!
OH, YES, SIMPLY A BRILLIANT IDEA!... NOW WE MANAGED TO GET YET ANOTHER STATUE ON OUR HANDS!
WE'RE GOING TO BRING MR. DELUNE FURTHER BACK ON THE ROAD. BY THE TIME HE COMES AROUND, THE ATTORNEY WILL HAVE RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS.
CAREFUL! LET'S NOT BREAK IT! I WONDER IF WHAT WE ARE DOING IS REALLY SAFE?!
IT'S NECESSARY, UNCLE GEORGE! IT'S ALL ABOUT TIMING! THEY CANNOT BE ARRIVING TOGETHER SINCE THEY DIDN'T LEAVE TOGETHER! DOESN'T IT MAKE SENSE?... UH, I THINK WE WENT FAR ENOUGH. LET'S PUT HIM RIGHT HERE.
22B

HUH, GUYS? IF YOU PUT A SALT STATUE IN WATER, IT WILL MELT!...
A BIT LATER
IT'S REALLY CURIOUS THAT THIS MAN SUDDENLY CAME FORWARD AFTER SO MANY YEARS, AND THAT HE WANTS TO SEE KHENA AGAIN.
HE IS GETTING OLD, AND I BELIEVE HE BEARS A WEIGHTY SECRET THAT HE WANT TO REVEAL ONLY TO KHENA!
DIDIER DILLING
I ALSO HAVE A DOCUMENT THAT EXPLAINS HOW TO FIND THIS SHEPHERD... EH? WHERE DID IT GO?
A VISITOR! I'M GETTING THE DOOR, UNCLE GEORGE.
HELLO, KHENA. IS MISTER CLINCHER HERE?
YES, HE IS! COME IN, MISTER DELUNE.
OH, IT'S YOU, DELUNE. WHAT'S GOING ON?
AS YOU RUSHED OUT OF THE OFFICE, YOU DROPPED A DOCUMENT THAT I'M BRINGING!... UH... HELLO, MR. CAYO!
HAVE A SEAT, MR. DELUNE.
OH, THAT'S THE DOCUMENT IN QUESTION. THANK YOU, DELUNE! BUT YOU ARE LOOKING VERY TROUBLED! WHAT'S GOING ON? NOTHING BAD, I HOPE?
WELL, I...
23A
SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HAPPENED TO ME!... I WAS ON MY WAY TO COME HERE, AND WOULD YOU BELIEVE THAT SUDDENLY, I FOUND MYSELF TRANSPORTED AT LEAST 300 FEET BACKWARD!
OH INDEED?
WHAT??
AND THAT'S NOT ALL! LOOK! THE SOLE OF MY SHOES COMPLETELY VANISHED! MELTED AWAY! BRAND NEW SHOES!!
?!
UH... WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A DRINK WITH US? DON'T WORRY, I'LL DRIVE YOU BACK!
A BIT LATER, IN KHENA'S BEDROOM...
...AND THE SOLE OF HIS SHOES HAD TOTALLY MELTED AWAY!...
HAHAHA!
ALL RIGHT! NO MORE MESSING AROUND! I WANT EXPLANATIONS! IT'S TIME TO SPILL THE BEANS!...
BEANS? I LOVE BEANS!
23B

THE BEANS WERE SPILLED UNTIL VERY LATE THIS NIGHT, AND UNCLE GEORGE REPEATED MANY TIMES:
IT'S EXTRAORDINARY!
SO, YOU, SCRAMESTASH, CAN FLY A SPACE SHIP, AND YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE THAT MOST TERRANS WILL NEVER OBTAIN, YET YOU ARE JUST AN ANIMAL...
YOU TRAINED MONKEYS AND DOGS TO FLY INTO SPACE. WELL, I WAS GIVEN A TREATMENT THAT ALLOWS ME TO DO ALL OF THIS, AND SINCE I AM GIFTED, I GOT TO STUDY A BIT.
EXPLAIN THE MEDAL STORY AGAIN.
TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO, BEINGS FROM MY PLANET STOPPED FOR A WHILE IN NAZCA, PERU. WHEN THEY LEFT, THEY GAVE THE INCA A MEDAL ENGRAVED WITH HIS PROFILE THAT GAVE HIM THE POWER TO OPEN A "SACRED SPHERE".
BUT THEY DUPED HIM, BECAUSE THIS SPHERE IS AN INFORMATION RECORDER. EVERY TIME IT'S OPENED, IT UPLOADS ITS RECORDINGS TO A RELAY STATION. SO FOR THE LAST 10,000 YEARS, YOUR EVOLUTION HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY A NETWORK OF RECORDERS HIDDEN THROUGHOUT YOUR PLANET!
YES, BUT THAT DOESN'T TELL US HOW KHENA ENDED UP WITH THIS MEDAL... TO SOLVE THIS MYSTERY, WE SHOULD GO TO PERU, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE IS APPARENTLY A SHEPHERD OVER THERE THAT COULD PROVIDE CLUES! THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION: GET A LOAN FROM THE BANK!
24A
NO! LET'S USE MY CRAFT!
WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN? CRAFT? THIEF CRAFT? ARE YOU TRAINED AS A THIEF, TOO? OUT OF THE QUESTION!
NOT AT ALL, UNCLE GEORGE! COME WITH US TO THE BARN, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!
SEE, THIS IS HIS CRAFT!
AND SO, THE NEXT MORNING...
THERE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF. THE TRIP IS PROGRAMMED. AS SOON AS WE ARE THERE, WE'LL SEND THE CRAFT BACK TO YOU, AND IT WILL COME PICK YOU UP AUTOMATICALLY. JUST ACTIVATE THE CALLBACK TRANSMITTER WHEN THE SKYCART IS NEARBY.
I HAVE TO AGREE SINCE THE SKYCART HAS ONLY TWO SEATS, BUT I REALLY DON'T LIKE YOU BEING ALONE OVER THERE, EVEN FOR A FEW HOURS. WELL, BE CAREFUL!
AND SOON...
I KNOW YOU HAVE TO MOVE WITH THE TIMES, BUT STILL!...
248

SAY, SCRAMESTASH, WHY DID YOU EXPOSE US TO THESE RAYS BEFORE LEAVING?
IT REPLACES FLIGHT SUITS. DON'T FORGET THAT THIS FLYCART CAN TRAVEL ALMOST AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT.
BUT FROM NOW ON, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. AS A TEST, I'LL SUBJECT YOU TO A STAGGERING ACCELERATION TO OVERTAKE THIS AIRPLANE, AND YOU WON'T FEEL THE SLIGHTEST DISTRESS.
IN THE COCKPIT OF SAID AIRPLANE
AUTO-PILOT, AUTOMATIC LANDING SYSTEM... ALL THIS AUTOMATION IS SUCH A PAIN! IF AT LEAST SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE!...
Z Z Z
Z Z Z
!?
25A
AAAH! CA... CA... CAPTAIN, A UFO JUST PASSED US!!
?
BLOW INTO THIS BREATHALYZER... AND IT BETTER BE NEGATIVE!!
HOW COME THIS ACCELERATION DOESN'T CRUSH US AGAINST THE SEATS?!
IT'S THANKS TO MAGNETO-DYNAMIC COMPENSATORS... BUT IT'D TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN... A BETTER USE OF OUR TIME WOULD BE TO GIVE YOU SOME NOTIONS OF QUECHUA. WAIT, LET ME TURN ON THE TUTOR...
THE WHAT?
THE TUTOR! IT KNOWS THE MAIN LANGUAGES SPOKEN ON YOUR PLANET AND CAN IMPART THEM TO ANYBODY IN RECORD TIME. DON'T MOVE, I AM SETTING IT UP!
THERE! HERE WE GO. CONVERSATIONAL QUECHUA IN ONE LESSON, RESULT GUARANTEED.
AS THE LESSON GOES ON, THE FLYCART ARRIVES OVER THE AMAZON...
AND REACHES ITS DESTINATION.
!
25B


HERE, WE ARE NEAR NAZCA!... CUZCO IS THIS WAY! FAR, VERY FAR!
WE ARE TOO FAR SOUTH, NEAR NAZCA. HE SAYS WE NEED TO GO THIS WAY!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
NAZCA... THAT RINGS A BELL. DIDN'T YOU MENTION IT, SCRAMESTASH?
YES, I MENTIONED THE NAZCA LINES! HERE THEY ARE!... FROM HERE, THE SPACE SHIPS THAT CAME FROM MY PLANET STARTED THEIR RETURN TRIP 10,000 YEARS AGO!
LOOK! WE ARE OVER CUZCO! WE ARE APPROACHING OUR GOAL!
26A
THE ELPATCHO HACIENDA! AND ABOVE IT, THE SHEPHERD HOUSE... IT MATCHES THE ATTORNEY'S DESCRIPTION! SLOW DOWN, WE ARE THERE!
I'M GOING TOO FAST, AND REVERSING THE PROPULSION WILL DRAW ATTENTION!... OH WELL!...
CLAP
!?
THE SON OF THE SUN! AT LAST!
YOU ARE KHENA, SON OF THE SUN! THE ORACLES DIDN'T LIE, YOUR GLARE IS DAZZLING! MY NAME IS CHIQUATUBAC. I WAS AWAITING YOU.
LET'S NOT EXAGGERATE. IT'S THE FLYCART THAT WAS DAZZLING YOU!
COME IN!
SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON AT OLD SHEPHERD CHIQUATUBAC'S HOUSE.
26B


TECHTLIMANIAC WAS RIGHT TO KEEP HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE. I'LL TRY TO SEE WHO THESE STRANGERS ARE.
IT'S TIME TO SEND BACK THE FLYCART.
WHAT'S THIS CREATURE?
UH... IT'S A VERY SMART ANIMAL THAT YOU DON'T SEE IN THESE PARTS!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING??... I CAN'T HEAR THEM ANYMORE... I AM GOING TO RISK A QUICK GLANCE.
?!?
NO DOUBT, HE IS THE SON OF OREJANA! (1)
(1) OREJANA: GODDESS THAT, ACCORDING TO AN ANDEAN LEGEND, ARRIVED ON EARTH IN A FLYING SHIP AS BRIGHT AS THE SUN TO GIVE BIRTH TO THE HUMAN RACE.
27A

THE HOUSE DIDN'T CHANGE SINCE YOU LEFT. DO YOU REMEMBER?
NO! I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THIS! I WAS PROBABLY TOO YOUNG!
ALSO, YOU DIDN'T STAY HERE VERY LONG. IT WAS SHORTLY AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE, EIGHT YEARS AGO. THE VILLAGE OF POPSHOPAMAC HAD BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED. MY WIFE AND I HAD GONE THERE TO HELP A RELATIVE.
THAT'S WHERE WE FOUND YOU, ALONE, LOST IN THE RUINS, HALF NAKED, WITH NOTHING BUT A MEDAL ENGRAVED WITH A NAME AROUND YOUR NECK...
LOOK AT HIM, HOW CUTE HE IS... WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM ALL ALONE LIKE THIS!

NOBODY COULD READ THE NAME ON THE MEDAL, AND YOU COULDN'T SPEAK YET.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO CALL THIS LITTLE PIPSQUEAK? HE ISN'T TALLER THAN A KHENA! (2)
WELL, CALL HIM KHENA THEN! THE NAME SUITS HIM VERY WELL.
THAT BECAME YOUR NAME. WE BROUGHT YOU BACK HOME IN THE MOUNTAIN.
WE HAD JUST ARRIVED HOME WHEN A MAN CAME TO ASK ME TO TAKE IN ANOTHER BOY, POTOCHAMAC...
I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN IN ANOTHER BOY, AND I AM NOT VERY RICH!
IT'S ONLY FOR A FEW DAYS, AND I'LL COMPENSATE YOU HANDSOMELY.
27B

(2) KHENA OR QUENA: LITTLE INCA FLUTE.

THE MAN DISAPPEARED. TWO MONTHS LATER, HE STILL HADN'T BEEN BACK, AND FEEDING TWO KIDS WAS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER...

LET'S WAIT A FEW MORE DAYS, THEN WE'LL ASK YOUR SISTER FOR HELP!

FORTUNATELY, A EUROPEAN SCIENTIST WAS WORKING ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS NEARBY, AND HE CAME TO OUR HELP... YOU LIKED HIM AND MADE FRIENDS WITH HIM...

AND SO, ONE DAY....

I AM GOING TO MACHU PICCHU FOR A WEEK. IF YOU AGREE, I CAN BRING LITTLE KHENA WITH ME. THAT'LL BE ONE LESS MOUTH TO FEED FOR YOU!

WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, THE MAN CAME BACK TO PICK UP POTOCHAMAC. TO TOP IT ALL, HE ACCUSED ME OF HAVING STOLEN A GOLD MEDAL AND REPLACED IT WITH WORTHLESS TRINKET.

MY MEDAL?

YES!

THE MAN THREATENED ME OF THE DIREST CONSEQUENCES IF I SPOKE A WORD OF THIS TO ANYONE.

THESE MEN WILL KEEP YOU UNDER WATCH CONSTANTLY. DON'T BABBLE, OR ELSE!

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING TO UNCLE GEORGE WHEN HE WANTED TO ADOPT ME?

I WAS AFRAID. I FELT I WAS CONSTANTLY WATCHED. TO AVOID TROUBLE, I LET YOU GO WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, BECAUSE IN THE MEAN TIME, I PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER: WHILE PLAYING, POTOCHAMAC AND YOU HAD SWAPPED YOUR MEDALS!

28A

THAT'S RIGHT! LOOK, HERE IS POTOCHAMAC'S MEDAL! THEN, THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE! WE JUST HAVE TO FIND POTOCHAMAC, SWAP THE MEDALS AGAIN, AND I'LL FINALLY KNOW MY IDENTITY! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE WE COULD FIND HIM?

YES, AND THAT'S WHERE THE PLOT THICKENS... I RECENTLY LEARNED THAT POTOCHAMAC IS THE SPIRITUAL HEIR OF THE INCA, AND THE MAN WHO WAS WITH HIM WAS HIS PRECEPTOR, THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE SUN, TECHTUMANIAC! HE WANTED ME TO STAY QUIET BECAUSE HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THAT AFFECTS THE INCA.

WHAT A MESS!... THIS KID IS GOING TO BRING US TROUBLE... AND JUST AT THE TIME OF THE BLACK SUN.

BUT, MISTER CHIQUATUBAC, I THOUGHT THAT THE INCA EMPIRE DIDN'T EXIST ANYMORE?!

POLITICALLY, IT DOESN'T. BUT IT LIVES IN THE HEART OF INDIANS! THAT'S WHY AN ORPHAN IS CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THE EDUCATION THAT SUITS AN INCA, SO HE CAN REPRESENT HIM DURING CEREMONIES LIKE THE BLACK SUN. IT HAS BEEN SO FOR CENTURIES! DRINK THIS, IT'S GOOD LLAMA MILK.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN CHAMBON...

AT LAST! IT'S TIME! THE FLYCART SHOULD BE BACK SOON! HERE, ON THIS HILL, I CAN'T MISS IT.

OH DEAR! OLD MAN CAYO IS ALWAYS SO ABSENT MINDED. I BET HE'S WAITING FOR THE BUS

HERE!...

28B

SO, MR. CAYO, WAITING FOR THE BUS?
??!? UH... YES, THAT'S RIGHT, GRAMPS MACGUIRE!
OH, REALLY? AND, SAY, WHICH BUS IS THAT?
WELL, THE BUS GOING TO PERU!
DARN IT, HERE IS THE SKYCART! QUICK, THE CALLBACK TRANSMITTER!
TO PERU! MY, MY! WHY NOT TO AMERICA, EH?
WATCH OUT, HERE IT COMES! GOODBYE, GRAMPS MACGUIRE, SEE YOU SOON!...
?!?
OH, AND KEEP A PLACE FOR ME IN YOUR NEXT DREAM!
I'M GONNA WAKE UP! FOR SURE, I'M GONNA WAKE UP!
!
2.9A
MEANWHILE, AT TECHTLIMANIAC'S...
IF I WERE THEM, WHAT WOULD I DO? I'D TRY TO MEET THE INCA! YES, THAT'S IT!
AND TODAY, THE INCA WILL ATTEND THE TOTORA FESTIVAL ON THE LAKE, SO THEY'LL BE THERE, TOO! WE NEED TO MOVE AND GET READY TO GIVE THEM A PROPER WELCOME.
HE HE, I SEE!
ACHINSTOMAC, COME HERE! I HAVE WORK FOR YOU!
MEANWHILE...
WE'RE SO LUCKY TODAY IS THIS TOTORA FESTIVAL! WITH THESE DISGUISES, WE'LL PASS UNNOTICED. AND AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NOT AFRAID OF WALKING!
NEITHER AM I!
IT'S NICE OF THE SHEPHERD TO LEND US ALL THESE CLOTHES, BUT WE ARE MISSING THE MOST IMPORTANT: A REED BOAT! WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE SKYCART!
OH, HUSH, YOU PESSIMIST. HERE ARE TWO BOATS, AND I BET YOU THIS NICE INDIAN WILL LET US RENT ONE!
2.9B

EXCUSE ME, MISTER! I'D LIKE TO ATTEND THE TOTORA FESTIVAL TO SEE THE INCA. COULD I RENT A BOAT?
CRUD! THAT'S HIM!
WELL, UH... ACTUALLY, I WAS WAITING FOR A FRIEND, BUT I THINK HE WON'T BE COMING! SO, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, I CAN LEND YOU A BOAT, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO BRING IT BACK AFTERWARDS! FOLLOW ME, I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY.
SEE, WE'RE IN LUCK!
YOU'RE NAIVE! IF YOU KNEW THIS GUY DOESN'T SAY WHAT HE'S THINKING, YOU'D BE LESS OPTIMISTIC.
KHENA, THIS GUY IS TAKING US FOR A RIDE!
WHAT?
GOOD GRIEF, THINK, KHENA! WHAT'S TOTORA?
TOTORA?! WELL, IT'S THE REED THAT GROWS ON THE LAKE AND IS USED BY THE INDIANS AS FOOD, CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL, AND MANY OTHER THINGS!
EXACTLY! AND YET, THIS GUY IS LEADING US TO THIS SMALL ROCKY ISLAND WHERE THERE ISN'T A SINGLE REED OR PERSON!
30A
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
WE KEEP GOING! AS LONG AS I AM WITH YOU, YOU ARE SAFE, BUT BE ON THE LOOKOUT!
WHY ARE WE ON THIS ISLAND? THERE'S NOBODY HERE!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO TALK TO THE INCA, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, THE BEST WAY TO MEET HIM IS TO WAIT FOR HIM HERE. BY TRADITION, THE INCA WILL CLIMB TO THE OLD TEMPLE OVER THERE AND THROW TOTORA BUNDLES INTO THE LAKE TO BRING US A GOOD CROP. THIS IS THE RITE THAT ENDS THE FESTIVAL.
THERE! THE TOTORA BUNDLES ARE ALREADY WAITING. THE BOAT CORTEGE WILL BE HERE SOON!
HE IS ALONE, IT'S ALL GOOD!
30B

AND NOW, GIVE ME BACK THE MEDAL YOU STOLE FROM THE INCA! DON'T TRY TO RESIST, THERE ARE FIVE OF US!
RUN FOR IT, KHENA! IT'S A TRAP!
WIIZ
YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME, KID!
WIIIZ
OUCH! HE IS GOOD FOR A BIG SPLASH!
31A
SPLACH
CARRIED BY THE TOTORA, ACHINSTOMAC IS KEPT OUT OF THE WATER!... WELL, MOSTLY.
HE TURNED THEM INTO STATUES!! THIS ANIMAL IS THE DEVIL HIMSELF!...
MY TURN TO STRIKE.
PAF
31B

BLAST IT! THE SCRAMESTASH IS OUT COLD. I'M DONE FOR!
WHAT DID HE DO? WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THEM?? SPEAK, OR I THROW HIM INTO THE LAKE!
I NEED TO STALL... BUY TIME UNTIL THE SCRAMESTASH REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE!... AND YOU BETTER REANIMATE HIM QUICKLY, OR IT'LL BE TOO LATE TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS!...
WHAT... WHERE AM I???
!
RATS! SO MUCH FOR THAT!
PLOC
YOU LITTLE LIAR! WE DON'T NEED HIM ANYMORE! OFF HE GOES INTO THE LAKE!
NO!
324
!
HEY, WAIT A SEC!
DON'T DO THAT YOU IMBECILE, OR I'LL QUASH YOU!
FIRST, HE NEEDS TO GIVE ME BACK MY LEGS LIKE BEFORE!
QUASH? HE IS THE ONE WHO GOT QUASHED!
QUICK! TELL ME, CAN HE GIVE ME BACK MY LEGS?
HAH! NOT A CHANCE! GO JUMP IN A LAKE! IT'S OVER FOR THEM!
SO WHAT DO I DO? DO I THROW HIM?!?
QUIET, YOU IDIOT, LET ME THINK! DON'T RUSH ME!
EVEN IF I RUSH YOU, YOU WON'T GO VERY FAST!
SHUT UP AND THROW THAT THING INTO THE HOLE!
THE HOLE?
YES, THE HOLE! IF IT'S OVER FOR ME, IT'S OVER FOR HIM TOO!
?
328

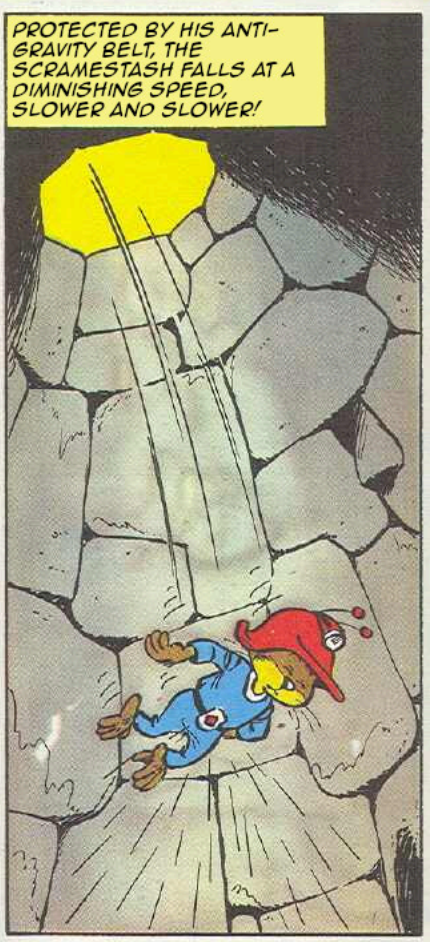
WAIT!
DROP HIM DOWN! NOW!

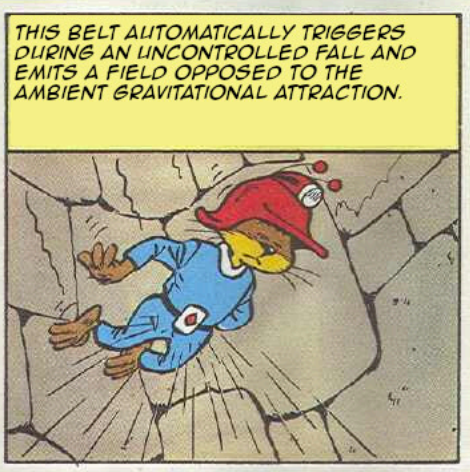
IF YOU WANT MY MEDAL, YOU CAN HAVE IT! HERE, TAKE IT, BUT LEAVE THE SCRAMESTASH ALONE!

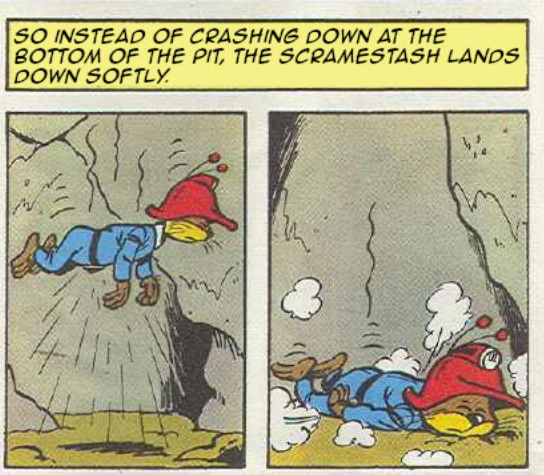
WELL, NOW! THE INCA GOT HIS MEDAL BACK, BUT I STILL LOST MY LEGS! SO, DROP HIM DOWN!
!

NO!

BANDITS! ASSASSINS! TRAITORS!!
33A


PROTECTED BY HIS ANTI-GRAVITY BELT, THE SCRAMESTASH FALLS AT A DIMINISHING SPEED, SLOWER AND SLOWER!

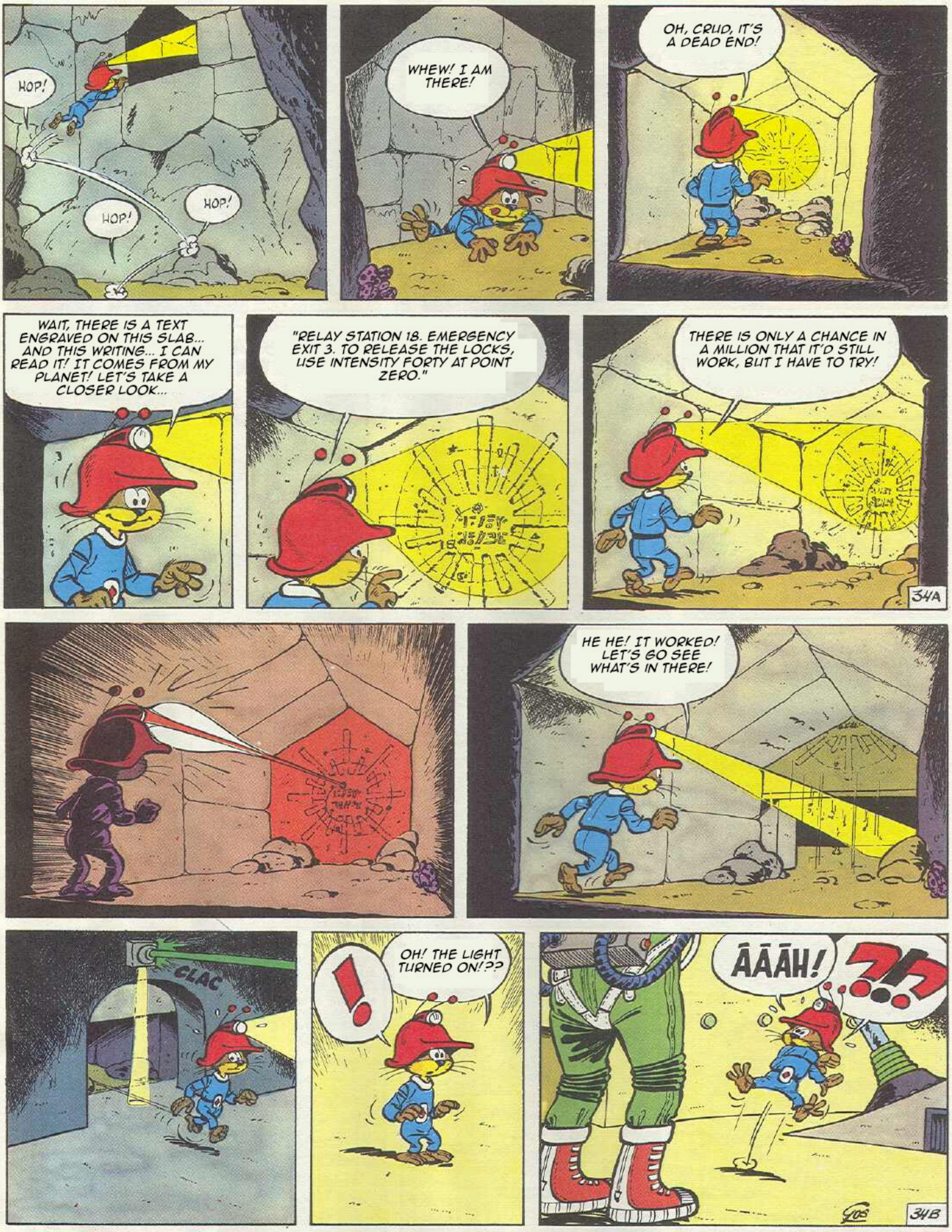

THIS BELT AUTOMATICALLY TRIGGERS DURING AN UNCONTROLLED FALL AND EMITS A FIELD OPPOSED TO THE AMBIENT GRAVITATIONAL ATTRACTION.

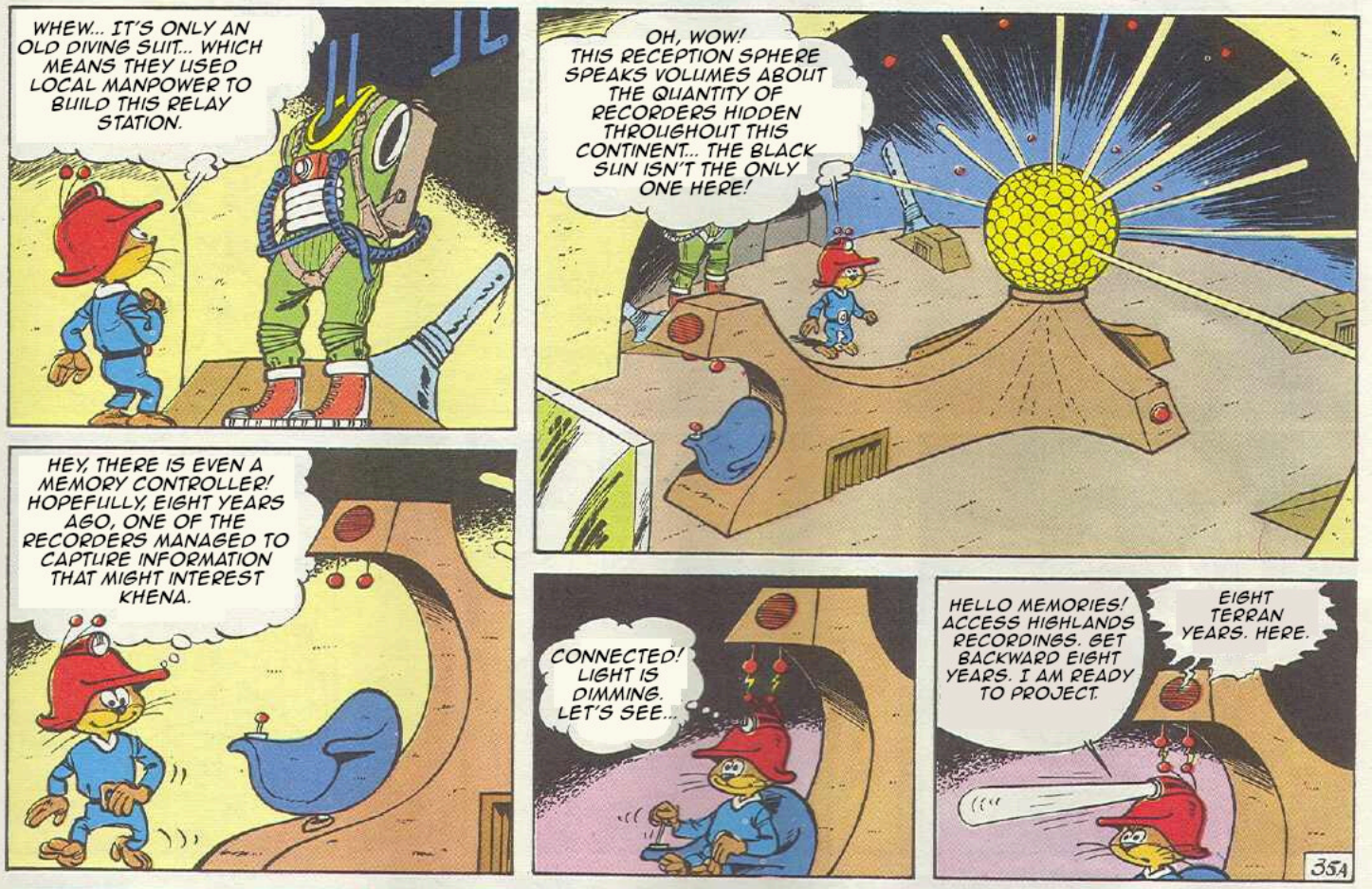

SO INSTEAD OF CRASHING DOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT, THE SCRAMESTASH LANDS DOWN SOFTLY.

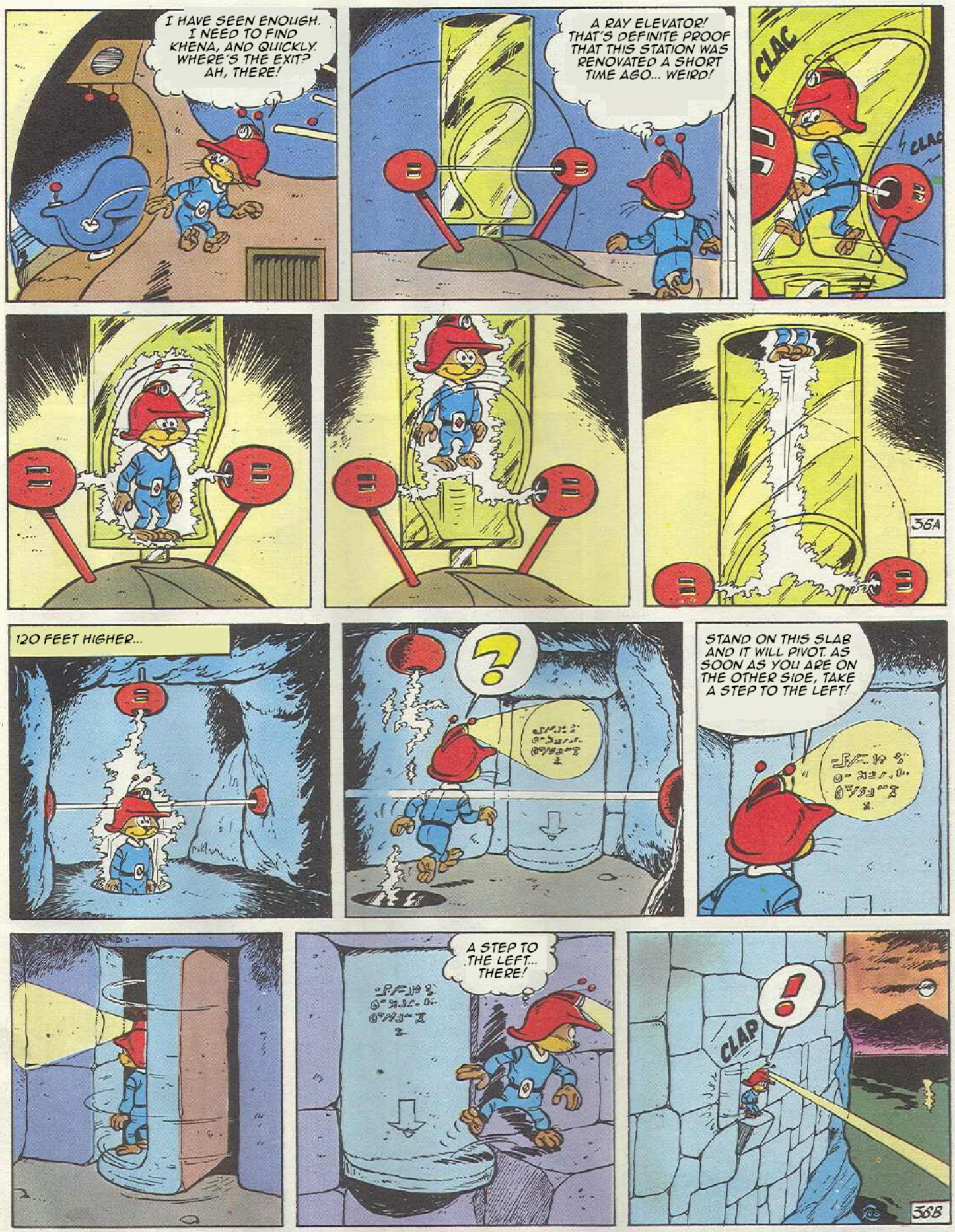
MUCH LATER...
GOLLY! WHERE AM I??

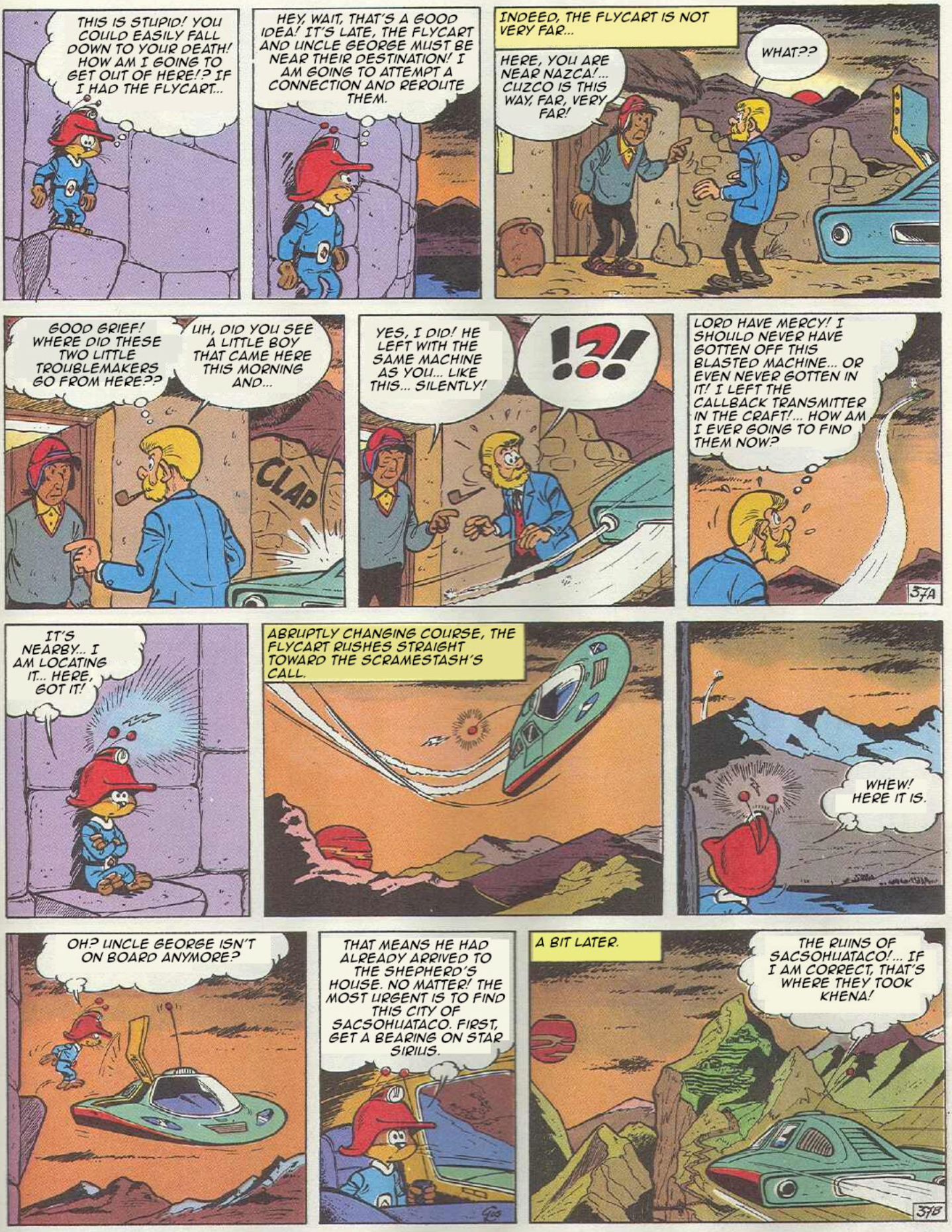
OH MY, I AM AT THE BOTTOM OF A PIT!... OBVIOUSLY, MY BELT SAVED ME! FORTUNATELY, KHENA DIDN'T FALL DOWN ALONG WITH ME.

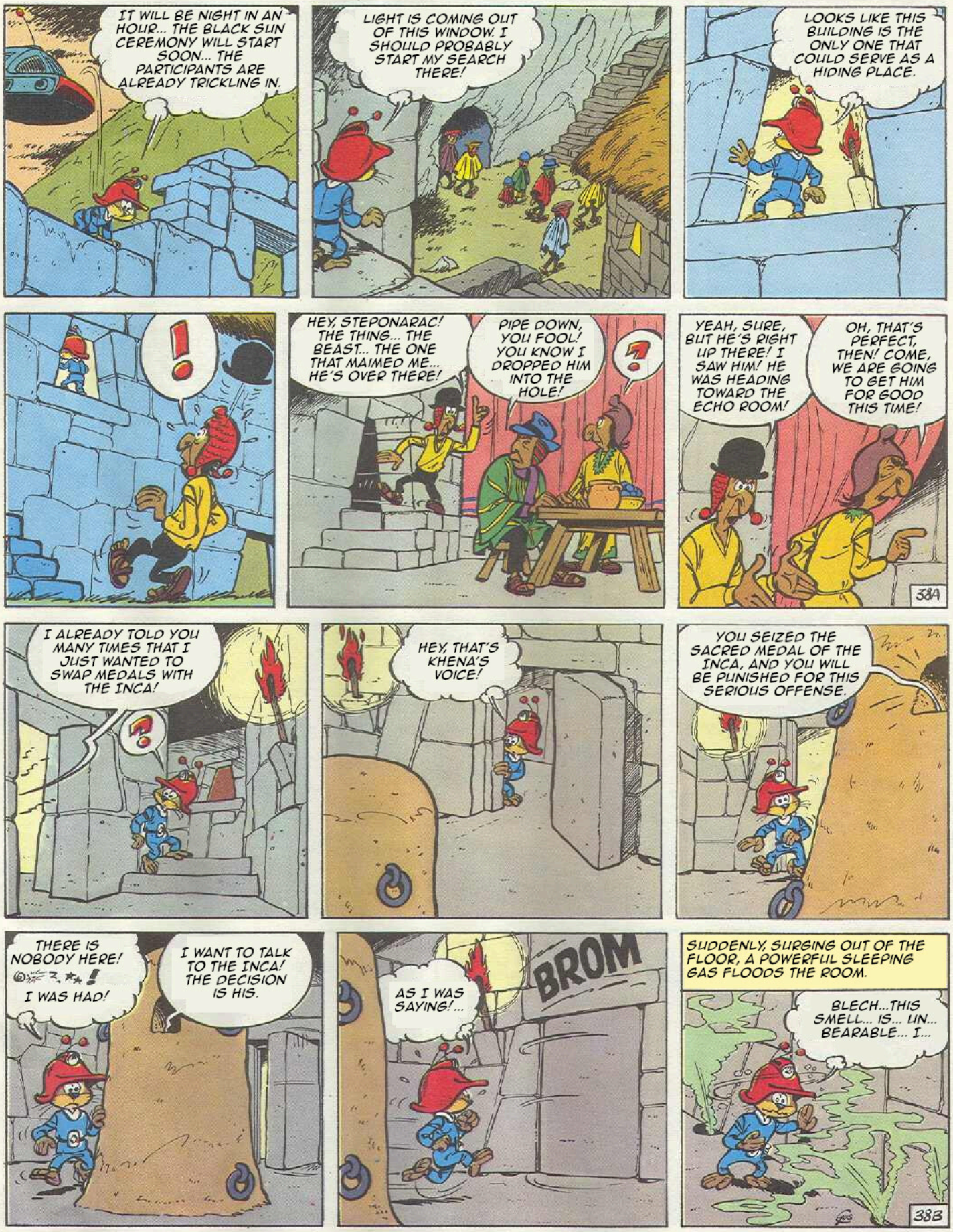
NOW I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE AND FIND HIM ON THE DOUBLE. OH, HERE, AN OPENING!
33B


HOP!
HOP!
HOP!
WHEW! I AM THERE!
OH, CRUD, IT'S A DEAD END!
WAIT, THERE IS A TEXT ENGRAVED ON THIS SLAB... AND THIS WRITING... I CAN READ IT! IT COMES FROM MY PLANET! LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...
"RELAY STATION 18. EMERGENCY EXIT 3. TO RELEASE THE LOCKS, USE INTENSITY FORTY AT POINT ZERO."
THERE IS ONLY A CHANCE IN A MILLION THAT IT'D STILL WORK, BUT I HAVE TO TRY!
34A
HE HE! IT WORKED! LET'S GO SEE WHAT'S IN THERE!
CLAC
OH! THE LIGHT TURNED ON!??
ĀĀĀH!
34B

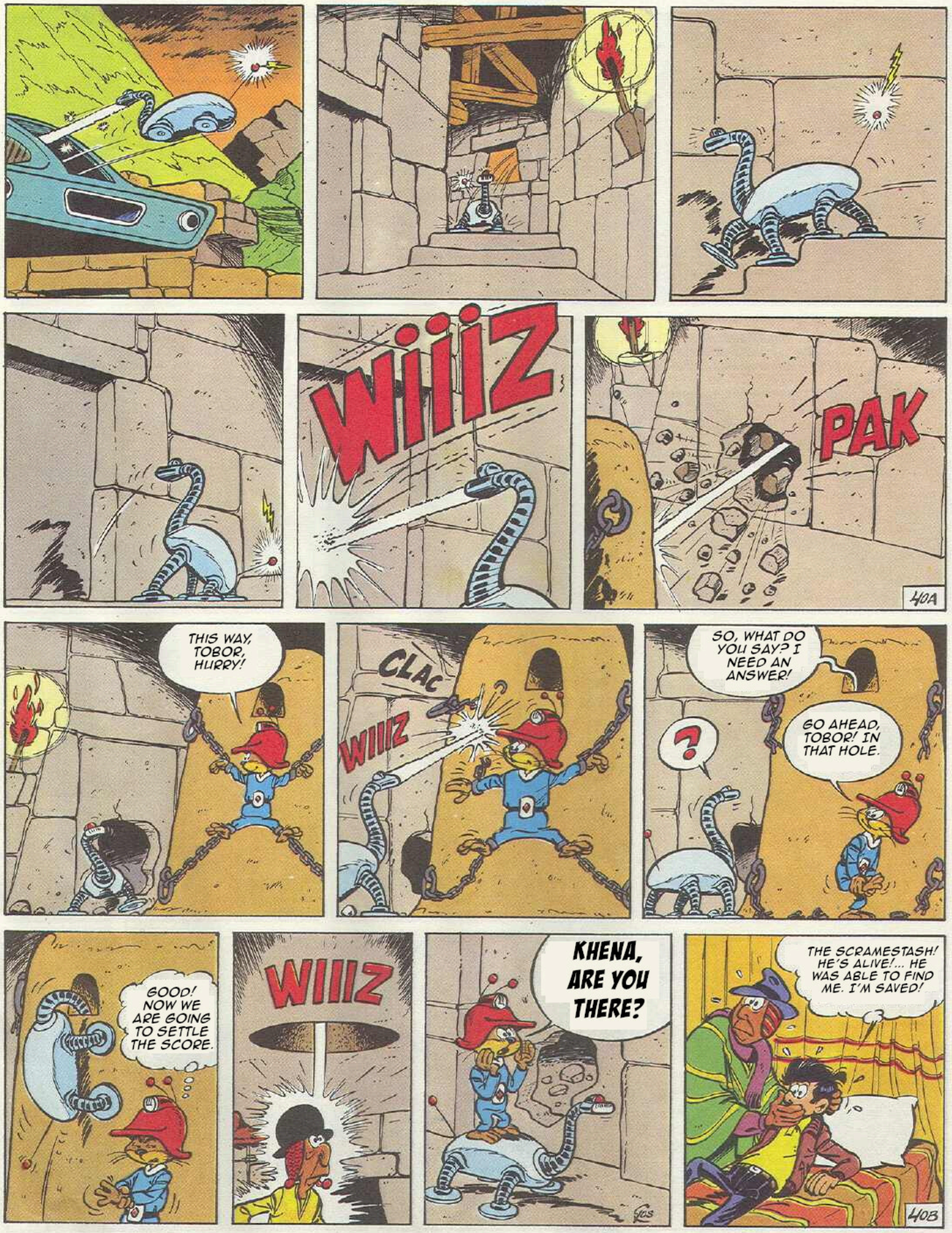

WHEW... IT'S ONLY AN OLD DIVING SUIT... WHICH MEANS THEY USED LOCAL MANPOWER TO BUILD THIS RELAY STATION.
OH, WOW! THIS RECEPTION SPHERE SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE QUANTITY OF RECORDERS HIDDEN THROUGHOUT THIS CONTINENT... THE BLACK SUN ISN'T THE ONLY ONE HERE!
HEY, THERE IS EVEN A MEMORY CONTROLLER! HOPEFULLY, EIGHT YEARS AGO, ONE OF THE RECORDERS MANAGED TO CAPTURE INFORMATION THAT MIGHT INTEREST KHENA.
CONNECTED! LIGHT IS DIMMING. LET'S SEE...
HELLO MEMORIES! ACCESS HIGHLANDS RECORDINGS. GET BACKWARD EIGHT YEARS. I AM READY TO PROJECT.
EIGHT TERRAN YEARS. HERE.
35A
IT'S WORKING! MY HELMET TRANSMITS THE IMAGE NICELY. THE PICTURE QUALITY IS GOOD! AH, HERE IS WHEN THE EARTHQUAKE HAPPENED.
HEY... THIS MAN TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAOS TO PLUNDER THE TREASURES OF AN INCA TEMPLE...
HELLO MEMORIES! CAN YOU FIND A CROSS-REFERENCE FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME?
TECHTUMANIAC, PRECEPTOR OF THE INCA AROUND END OF 20TH CENTURY. HERE HE IS ON ANOTHER RECORDING FROM SENSOR 8.
HE IS HIDING HIS LOOT!... THAT'S WHY HE LEFT THE INCA BOY IN THE CARE OF A SHEPHERD... IT'S BECAUSE HE WAS BUSY PLUNDERING THE TEMPLES... AND THIS GUY BEHIND HIM IS THE INDIAN WHO AMBUSHED US... IF ONLY I KNEW WHERE TO FIND THEM!
HELLO MEMORIES! WHAT'S THE LOCATION OF SENSOR 8 AND METHODS OF ACCESS?
INDIGENOUS CITY OF SACSOHUATACO... UPPER TEMPLE... BLACK MOUNTAIN DOOR... ACCESS EITHER VIA CLIFF OR LOCATION 152 WITH RESPECT TO STAR SIRIUS, ALTITUDE 13527.
35B

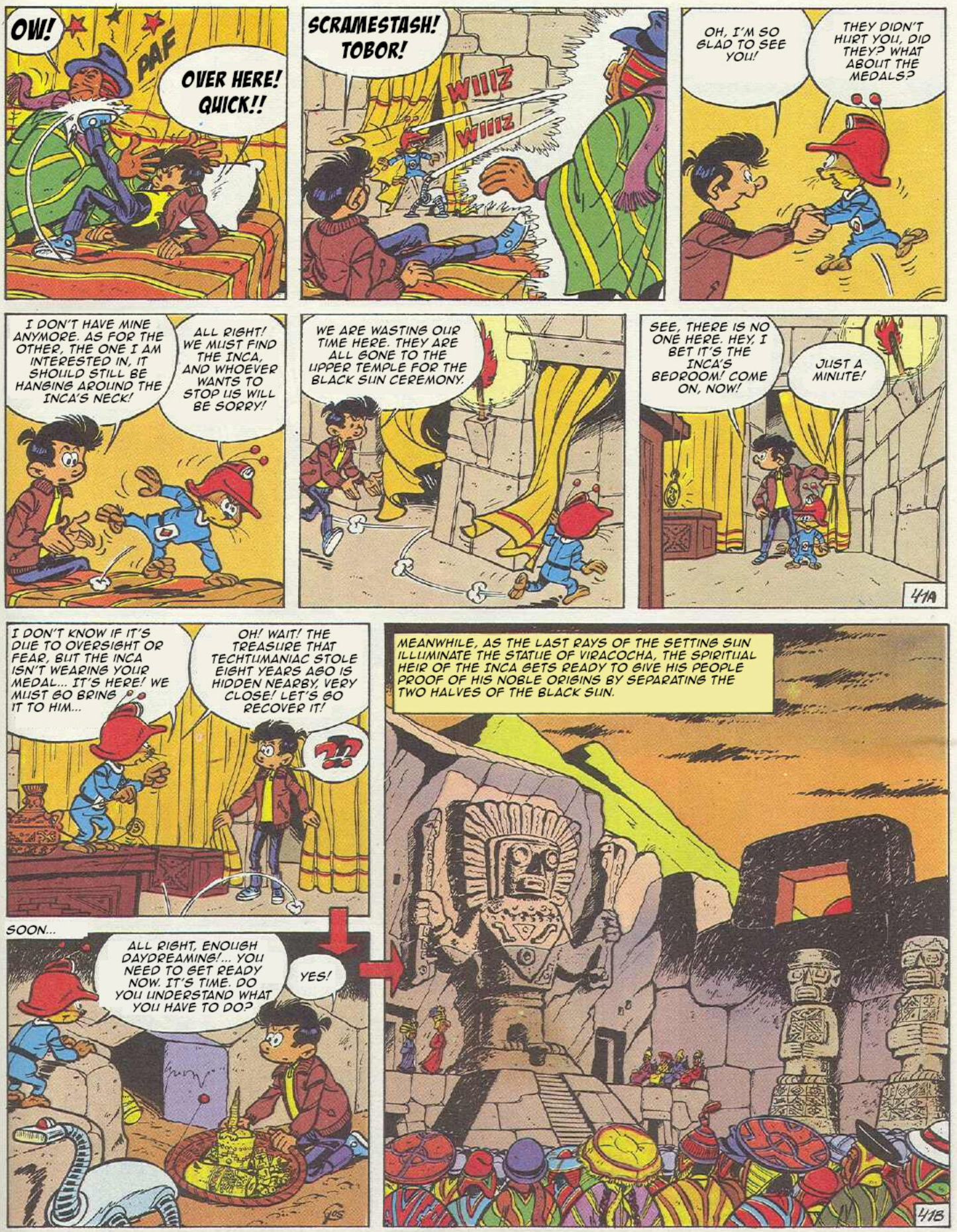

I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH. I NEED TO FIND KHENA, AND QUICKLY. WHERE'S THE EXIT? AH, THERE!
A RAY ELEVATOR! THAT'S DEFINITE PROOF THAT THIS STATION WAS RENOVATED A SHORT TIME AGO... WEIRD!
CLAC
CLAC
36A
120 FEET HIGHER...
?
STAND ON THIS SLAB AND IT WILL PIVOT. AS SOON AS YOU ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE, TAKE A STEP TO THE LEFT!
A STEP TO THE LEFT... THERE!
!
CLAP
36B


THIS IS STUPID! YOU COULD EASILY FALL DOWN TO YOUR DEATH! HOW AM I GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE!? IF I HAD THE FLYCART...
HEY, WAIT, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA! IT'S LATE, THE FLYCART AND UNCLE GEORGE MUST BE NEAR THEIR DESTINATION! I AM GOING TO ATTEMPT A CONNECTION AND REROUTE THEM.
INDEED, THE FLYCART IS NOT VERY FAR...
HERE, YOU ARE NEAR NAZCA!... CUZCO IS THIS WAY, FAR, VERY FAR!
WHAT??
GOOD GRIEF! WHERE DID THESE TWO LITTLE TROUBLEMAKERS GO FROM HERE??
UH, DID YOU SEE A LITTLE BOY THAT CAME HERE THIS MORNING AND...
CLAP
YES, I DID! HE LEFT WITH THE SAME MACHINE AS YOU... LIKE THIS... SILENTLY!
!?!
LORD HAVE MERCY! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN OFF THIS BLASTED MACHINE... OR EVEN NEVER GOTTEN IN IT! I LEFT THE CALLBACK TRANSMITTER IN THE CRAFT!... HOW AM I EVER GOING TO FIND THEM NOW?
37A
IT'S NEARBY.. I AM LOCATING IT... HERE, GOT IT!
ABRUPTLY CHANGING COURSE, THE FLYCART RUSHES STRAIGHT TOWARD THE SCRAMESTASH'S CALL.
WHEW! HERE IT IS.
OH? UNCLE GEORGE ISN'T ON BOARD ANYMORE?
THAT MEANS HE HAD ALREADY ARRIVED TO THE SHEPHERD'S HOUSE. NO MATTER! THE MOST URGENT IS TO FIND THIS CITY OF SACSOHUATACO. FIRST, GET A BEARING ON STAR SIRIUS.
A BIT LATER.
THE RUINS OF SACSOHUATACO!... IF I AM CORRECT, THAT'S WHERE THEY TOOK KHENA!
37B


IT WILL BE NIGHT IN AN HOUR... THE BLACK SUN CEREMONY WILL START SOON... THE PARTICIPANTS ARE ALREADY TRICKLING IN.
LIGHT IS COMING OUT OF THIS WINDOW. I SHOULD PROBABLY START MY SEARCH THERE!
LOOKS LIKE THIS BUILDING IS THE ONLY ONE THAT COULD SERVE AS A HIDING PLACE.
!
HEY, STEPONARAC! THE THING... THE BEAST... THE ONE THAT MAIMED ME... HE'S OVER THERE!
PIPE DOWN, YOU FOOL! YOU KNOW I DROPPED HIM INTO THE HOLE!
?
YEAH, SURE, BUT HE'S RIGHT UP THERE! I SAW HIM! HE WAS HEADING TOWARD THE ECHO ROOM!
OH, THAT'S PERFECT, THEN! COME, WE ARE GOING TO GET HIM FOR GOOD THIS TIME!
38A
I ALREADY TOLD YOU MANY TIMES THAT I JUST WANTED TO SWAP MEDALS WITH THE INCA!
?
HEY, THAT'S KHENA'S VOICE!
YOU SEIZED THE SACRED MEDAL OF THE INCA, AND YOU WILL BE PUNISHED FOR THIS SERIOUS OFFENSE.
THERE IS NOBODY HERE!
I WAS HAD!
!
I WANT TO TALK TO THE INCA! THE DECISION IS HIS.
BROM
AS I WAS SAYING!...
SUDDENLY, SURGING OUT OF THE FLOOR, A POWERFUL SLEEPING GAS FLOODS THE ROOM.
BLECH...THIS SMELL... IS... UN... BEARABLE... I...
38B

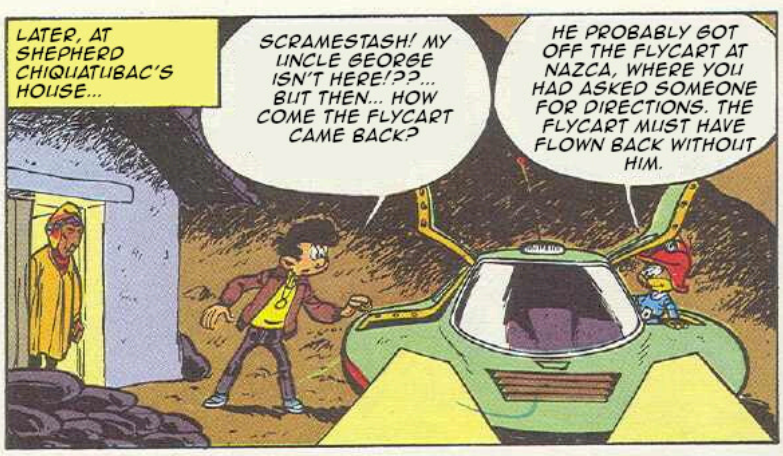
ALL RIGHT! HE SHOULD BE OUT BY NOW. ACHINSTOMAC, OPEN THE DOOR, WE'RE GOING IN.
?
NO DOUBT, IT'S THAT SAME FREAKISH CREATURE.
AND THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF, ACHINSTOMAC?
CAREFUL! HE'S VERY DANGEROUS, AND HE TALKS!...
THERE!
QUITE A STRANGE CRITTER, REALLY... ANYWAY, HE CAN'T HARM US ANYMORE. WE WILL DEAL WITH HIM LATER.
STEPONARAC WILL WATCH THE KID. YOU, ACHINSTOMAC, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ONE! GO DOWNSTAIRS, LOCK THE DOOR, AND SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE COMES IN!
ME? UH... YES, ALL RIGHT!
HEY! I SHOULD SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY! BEFORE I CLOSE THE DOOR, I'LL WAKE HIM UP WITH THE ANTIDOTE SO I CAN ASK HIM TO GIVE ME MY LEGS BACK.
39A
BY THE TIME I GET DOWNSTAIRS, HE WILL BE FRESH AS A DAISY.
QUICK, CLOSE THE DOOR AS A PRECAUTION.
WHOEVER YOU ARE, LISTEN TO ME! I HAVE AN OFFER FOR YOU...
YOU GIVE ME BACK MY LEGS LIKE BEFORE, AND I WILL SET YOU FREE! AGREED?
I DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH CROOKS!
I MUST HURRY BEFORE I GET GASSED AGAIN.
DZZZZ
39B


WIIIZ
PAK
40A
THIS WAY, TOBOR, HURRY!
CLAC
WIIIZ
SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY? I NEED AN ANSWER!
?
GO AHEAD, TOBOR! IN THAT HOLE.
GOOD! NOW WE ARE GOING TO SETTLE THE SCORE.
WIIIZ
KHENA, ARE YOU THERE?
THE SCRAMESTASH! HE'S ALIVE!... HE WAS ABLE TO FIND ME. I'M SAVED!
40B

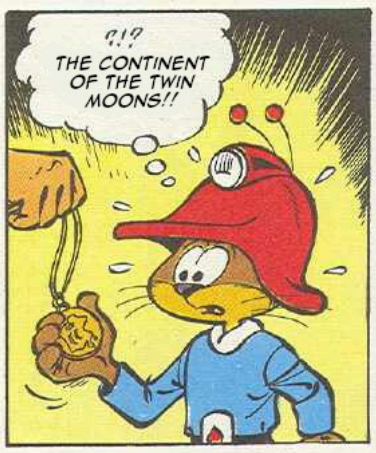

OW!
PAF
OVER HERE! QUICK!!
SCRAMESTASH! TOBOR!
WIIIZ
WIIIZ
OH, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!
THEY DIDN'T HURT YOU, DID THEY? WHAT ABOUT THE MEDALS?
I DON'T HAVE MINE ANYMORE. AS FOR THE OTHER, THE ONE I AM INTERESTED IN, IT SHOULD STILL BE HANGING AROUND THE INCA'S NECK!
ALL RIGHT! WE MUST FIND THE INCA, AND WHOEVER WANTS TO STOP US WILL BE SORRY!
WE ARE WASTING OUR TIME HERE. THEY ARE ALL GONE TO THE UPPER TEMPLE FOR THE BLACK SUN CEREMONY.
SEE, THERE IS NO ONE HERE. HEY, I BET IT'S THE INCA'S BEDROOM! COME ON, NOW!
JUST A MINUTE!
41A
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S DUE TO OVERSIGHT OR FEAR, BUT THE INCA ISN'T WEARING YOUR MEDAL... IT'S HERE! WE MUST GO BRING IT TO HIM...
OH! WAIT! THE TREASURE THAT TECHTUMANIAC STOLE EIGHT YEARS AGO IS HIDDEN NEARBY, VERY CLOSE! LET'S GO RECOVER IT!
?!!
MEANWHILE, AS THE LAST RAYS OF THE SETTING SUN ILLUMINATE THE STATUE OF VIRACOCHA, THE SPIRITUAL HEIR OF THE INCA GETS READY TO GIVE HIS PEOPLE PROOF OF HIS NOBLE ORIGINS BY SEPARATING THE TWO HALVES OF THE BLACK SUN.
SOON...
ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH DAYDREAMING!... YOU NEED TO GET READY NOW. IT'S TIME. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO?
YES!
41B

THE SUN HAS NOW SET. LET THE BLACK SUN DESIGNATE THE ONE WHO IS WORTHY OF BEARING THE NAME OF SON OF THE SUN! AND LET VIRACOCHA PUNISH ALL THOSE WHO WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE HIM AS SUCH!
NOW SEPARATE THE BLACK SUN, POTOCHAMAC, AND THEREAFTER BE VENERATED AS THE NOBLE DESCENDANT OF MANCO CAPA AND MAMA OCLLO!
WELL, POTOCHAMAC, WHY THE WAIT?
A MYSTERIOUS FORCE IS TELLING ME TO WAIT. AND LOOK AT THE SUN GATE! INSTEAD OF SETTING, THE SUN IS COMING BACK TO US!
BY ALL LLAMAS' BEARDS, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS??
42A
OH PEOPLE OF THE MOUNTAINS, LISTEN TO ME! I AM SENT BY INTI, THE SUN. THE REASON POTOCHAMAC IS WAITING IS BECAUSE THERE IS A TRAITOR AMONG YOU!
YES, AN ABHORRENT PERSON WHO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS POSITION TO STEAL WHAT WAS LEFT OF YOUR HEIRLOOM TREASURES!
DO YOU HEAR ME, TECHTUMANIAC? WHERE IS THE TREASURE OF THE TEMPLE OF CHICABOMPAH? DO YOU REMEMBER? IT WAS EIGHT YEARS AGO!
I DIDN'T STEAL IT! IT DISAPPEARED DURING THE EARTHQUAKE AND...
LIAR!
WIIIZ
42B

THIS MAN IN DECEITFUL! HE IS NOT WORTHY OF YOUR JUST AND UPSTANDING PEOPLE! LET HIM BE JUDGED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE HIGH PRIESTS OF THE SUN AFTER HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!... AS FOR CHIKABOMPAH'S TREASURE, I AM GIVING IT BACK TO YOU BY MEANS OF THIS YOUNG BOY.
LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT HE WILL TELL YOU, POTOCHAMAC, AND OBEY HIM COMPLETELY!
FROM NOW ON, YOU AND ALL YOUR SUCCESSORS WILL BEAR THIS MEDAL!... YOUR LIVES ARE AT STAKE. AND TO WARD AGAINST BAD LUCK, GIVE ME THE ONE YOU HAVE BEEN BEARING FOR EIGHT YEARS, AS IT IS WORTH-LESS.
HERE IT IS! YOU SEE THAT I AM OBEYING YOU COMPLETELY!
THANK YOU, AND LET YOUR DESTINY BE FULFILLED THROUGH THE BLACK SUN!
I AM LEAVING. NO ONE CAN FOLLOW ME LEST THEY ARE TURNED INTO A SALT STATUE LIKE TECHTUMANIAC.
43A
COME, TOBOR! I AM SAFE NOW.
SHALL WE GO, SCRAMESTASH?! HEY, WHERE ARE YOU?
HERE!
YOU CAN STILL WATCH THE OPENING OF THE BLACK SUN! OTHERWISE, YOU'LL HAVE TO COME BACK IN FITFY-TWO YEARS!
IT WORKED! POTOCHAMAC IS RECOGNIZED AS THE INCA! LISTEN TO THESE OVATIONS!...
GOOD! WELL, SINCE YOU HAVE WHAT YOU WANTED, WE'D BETTER SLIP AWAY DISCREETLY.
I DID IT! OH! INTI'S EMISSARIES ARE GONE! TOO BAD.
43B


LATER, AT SHEPHERD CHIQUATLIBAC'S HOUSE...
SCRAMESTASH! MY UNCLE GEORGE ISN'T HERE!??... BUT THEN... HOW COME THE FLYCART CAME BACK?
HE PROBABLY GOT OFF THE FLYCART AT NAZCA, WHERE YOU HAD ASKED SOMEONE FOR DIRECTIONS. THE FLYCART MUST HAVE FLOWN BACK WITHOUT HIM.

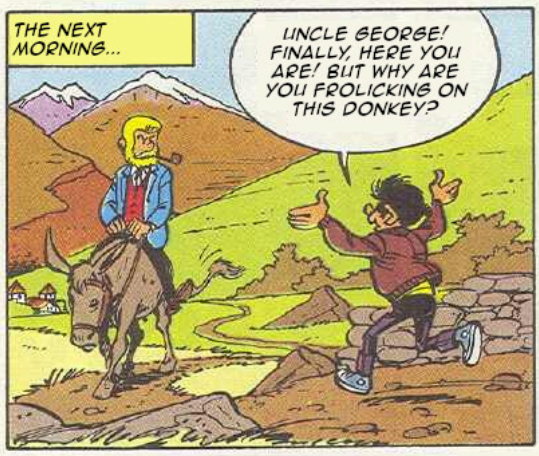
OH MERCY ME! I CAN PROMISE YOU HE WILL NOT BE HAPPY! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?!
NOTHING! THE BEST IS TO WAIT FOR HIM HERE! TOMORROW, HE WILL ARRIVE BY HIS OWN MEANS. BY THE WAY, YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN ME YOUR NEW MEDAL YET, THE REAL ONE!



HUM... UH... WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT! PERSONALLY, I CAN'T MAKE SENSE OF IT!... LET'S HOPE YOUR UNCLE WILL BE ABLE TO DECIPHER THIS GIBBERISH!

OBVIOUSLY, THE SCRAMESTASH KNOWS THE ORIGIN AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MEDAL! WHY IS HE SO EVASIVE THEN? MAYBE WE'LL KNOW SOME DAY?...

44A



WHAT? I GET STUCK ON A BUS FOR TWO HOURS, I SPEND THE NIGHT IN A TRAIN, I HITCHHIKE FOR AN HOUR TO TRAVEL FIVE MILES, AND FINALLY I WRECK MY POSTERIOR ON THIS DARN DONKEY!...

AND ALL OF THAT TO BE TOLD THAT I AM FROLICKING!... WELL, REALLY!... DON'T YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING A BIT FAR?
BUT... I... I WAS JOKING, UNCLE GEORGE!

I'M NOT LAUGHING, AND I'M WARNING YOU, YOUR PAL THE SCRAMESTASH BETTER FIND A WAY TO FIT THE THREE OF US INTO THE FLYCART FOR THE RETURN TRIP!

LATER...
I TELL YOU, DON'T WORRY! THERE IS NO RISK! BESIDES, YOUR UNCLE WILL NEVER KNOW! HE IS PETRIFIED, AND WITH THE DOSE HE RECEIVED, WE CAN CHILL UNTIL WE GET HOME AND THEN SOME!

44B

GOS 72 FINIS

Translator's notes:

- This book is not commercially available in English.
- This scanlation was done manually, no automated translation.
- The translation contains a few slight deviations from the original to avoid awkward sentences, but nothing was omitted.
- Many of the secondary characters have pun-based names. Some of them are impossible to translate. In a few cases, I used an equivalent pun in the English version when possible but I didn't try too hard.
- French learners are encouraged to purchase the original book and learn from the french texts. Bonus points if you find the puns!

Glossary:

I made some (sometimes questionable) translation decisions for proper names and for items:

French | English

Mademoiselle Azerty | Ms. Qwerty
Chambon-les-Roses | Chambon
Lamalalestomac | Achinstomac
Maître Soulte, notaire | Attorney Clincher, esq.
Oncle Georges Caillau | Uncle George Cayo
pion | tutor
passe-partout | flycart
Père Magloire | Gramps MacGuire
Scrameustache | Scramestash
Tchiquatoubac | Chiquatubac
Tchikabompah | Chikabompah
Techtumagnac | Techtumaniac
témoin de rappel | callback transmitter
Tharatelbac | Steponarac
Mme Victoire | Mrs. Victoria